# Atlanta/GA

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**News Tips**
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# GA appeals court to hear civil unions test case

## State becomes one of the first battlegrounds for recognition of VT gay unions

by PENNY WEAVER

ATLANTA—The Georgia Court of Appeals agreed last week to review a case that may mark the first time any state tests the validity of Vermont civil unions.

Atlantan Susan Freer brought the appeal, seeking to regain visitation rights for her three sons from a marriage that ended in 1995. Freer, 36, hasn't been allowed by her ex-husband to see her sons—Micah, 9, and twins Matthew and Jonathan, 12—since August.

August is the month, according to Freer, that she told the boys' father, her ex-husband, Darian Burns of Rome, Ga., about traveling to Vermont to enter into a civil union with her female partner, Debra Freer.

Susan Freer took the last name of her partner and joined with her in a Vermont civil union in July. In Floyd County Superior Court last summer, Burns claimed Susan Freer "continuously exercised overnight visitation with the minor children... while cohabiting with her female lover," in violation of a consent degree she voluntarily entered into.

Burns further charged that because Susan Freer visited the boys in the home she shared with Debra, she should be held in contempt of the 1998 consent order, under which both

V Continued on Page 5

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

**Lesbian couple Debra (left) and Susan Freer have only photos of Susan's children for now, as they take their legal case to the state appeals court in an attempt to force the state of Georgia to recognize their Vermont civil union.**

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

**Atlanta City Council member Sherry Dorsey, who represents District 5, strongly protested the additions of the Lake Claire, Candler Park and Druid Hills neighborhoods into her district. Adding all three areas, which include many gay residents, would dilute black voting strength in the district, she said.**

# New council map splits gay neighborhoods

## New proposal moves Lake Claire into District 5, splitting it from Candler Park

by PENNY WEAVER

ATLANTA—A new redistricting plan approved by the Atlanta City Council splits two heavily gay neighborhoods in an effort to meet demands by a controversial Council member to keep her district heavily black.

By a 9-3 vote, with openly gay District 6 representative Cathy Woolard among those dissenting, the panel dumped a previously approved map in favor of district lines redrawn by Council member Sherry Dorsey, who represents District 5 on the city's east side.

The Council must still vote on the new map twice more before it can be adopted, and a final map must be approved by early June to keep November elections on schedule. The next regular Council meetings are set for May 7 and 21.

Woolard attempted to replace the map backed by Dorsey with a compromise alternative that she said more closely followed

V Continued on Page 5

## INSIDE

**Popular gay nightspot Backstreet continues its 24-hour operation, despite a new city ordinance that was supposed to kick in April 30, as both sides wait for a showdown in court, attorney Jackson Cook says.**

**Page 4**

**DeKalb County CEO Vernon Jones made good on a campaign pledge to bring domestic partner benefits to county employees, making the county the first in the state to do.**

**Page 3**

**Ron Cowen and Daniel Lipman—the gay couple that's the driving force behind Showtime's 'Queer as Folk'—talk about the show before their stop in Atlanta Saturday for the annual HRC dinner.**

**Page 13**

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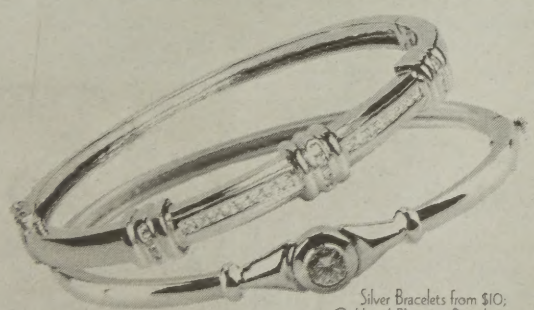

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## New Georgia Equality project to target African-American voters

ATLANTA—Georgia Equality's new initiative, the People of Color Outreach Project, will hold its first workshop May 12. The interactive session, "Voter Involvement & Voter Registration: Why They Matter," will focus on voting rights and registering to vote, officials said. "The purpose is to try and give people information and to encourage out people of color to run for office," said Kay Young, who is consulting with GEI, the statewide lobby group, on the workshops. The Rev. Fred Taylor of the Southern Christian Leadership Council will discuss the history of the Voting Rights Act. While the workshop is targeted to persons of color, all are welcome, Young said. Admission is free but individuals are encouraged to bring a can of food to be donated to the Atlanta Community Food Bank. The POC Outreach Project will conduct three more sessions later this year.

*—Andrew Keegan*

## Marietta man shot in Midtown Atlanta, police suspect robbery

ATLANTA—An April 24 shooting in the Caribou Coffee parking lot at 10th Street and Piedmont Avenue in a section of Midtown popular with gays left a 20-year-old Marietta, Ga., man in critical condition. The case is being investigated as an armed robbery, according to the Atlanta Police Department. The suspect, Raymond Roop III, is being held without bond in pre-trial detention. His trial has been set for May 16, state officials said. The victim, Jeffrey Patterson, was shot in the face and robbed, according to a police incident report. He was taken to Grady Hospital. Roop was on the scene when police responded to a 911 call just after 3 a.m. "The individual we came in contact with claimed to be a witness and after interviewing him we noticed he had the victim's billfold," said Officer John Quigley, an APD spokesman. The police report lists property confiscated at the scene as including a "glass crack pipe." Roop, 25, is known by police to have a history of drug use.

*—Erin O'Briant*

## Savannah police skip summit with FL authorities over trans killings

SAVANNAH, Ga.—Authorities have no new leads in the killings of two transgendered prostitutes, and local police skipped a recent meeting of investigators working on cases which may be related to a single suspect. "Sissy" Charles Bolden, 36, of Savannah was found shot to death in October 1999 in west Savannah. In the same general area, the body of Billy Jean Levette, 46, was found last November. Police said Levette had a wound to the back of his head, but won't confirm the cause of death. Bucky Burnsed, a spokesman for the Savannah Police Department, said this week there are no new developments in either slaying. A suspect, Ross Lane Emerson, 40, of Fort Worth, Texas, is jailed in Florida, charged with two slayings there. Savannah police did not attend the recent summit of detectives working the cases to which Emerson allegedly is tied. Burnsed said he did not know about the summit or why local investigators did not attend. In an unrelated case, the GBI has no suspects in the beating death of Robert Martin, 29. He was found unconscious Jan. 7 at an abandoned school in Ashburn and died April 3 from injuries sustained in the beating, said GBI Special Agent Tom Davis. "We've received a couple of leads in the last couple of weeks. It's still an open investigation," he said.

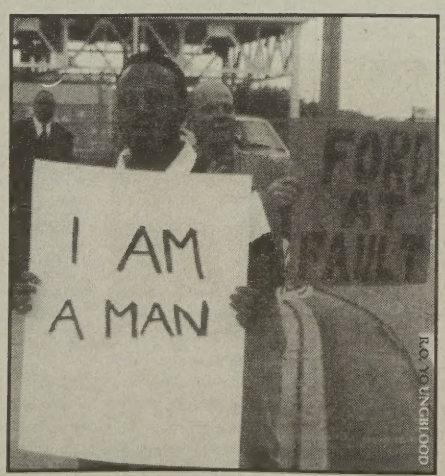
*—Penny Weaver*

**INFO**

**Voter Workshop**
Saturday, May 12, 9:30 a.m.-noon
The Atlanta Community Food Bank
970 Jefferson St. NW
To register: 404-872-3600
email: admin@georgiaequality.org

## Rallying over Ford complaint

**Several people turned out to support Ford Motor Co. employee Ruben Camp (foreground) in an April 25 protest highlighting Camp's allegations against the company at its Hapeville, Ga., assembly plant. Camp has filed suit against Ford, alleging he has been the victim of routine anti-gay slurs and physical threats from his coworkers. Camp said that despite the lawsuit and his continued complaints, the alleged harassment is ongoing. A Ford spokesperson has said the company does not comment on pending litigation.**



# *Ex-ATL pastor knew charges, MCC officials say*

## Minneapolis church continues to defy denomination order defrocking Shepherd, citing support from congregation

by ERIC ERICKSON

ATLANTA—Officials with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches insisted Rev. Glenna Shepherd was fully informed about the charges against her before the denomination moved last month to defrock the founding pastor of Christ Covenant MCC in Decatur.

No one associated with Shepherd's case would publicly reveal the charges against her, citing the confidentiality of the denomination's disciplinary process. Shepherd herself kept her silence on the controversy, failing to respond to repeated interview requests.

Last week, a spokesperson for All God's Children MCC in Minneapolis, where Shepherd has been senior pastor since leaving Atlanta last fall, insisted that the church would not recognize or abide by a decision by the UFMCC national governing body, defrocking Shepherd.

In a statement released last week to *Southern Voice*, Rev. Elder Troy Perry, UFMCC moderator and founder, confirmed the withdrawal of Shepherd's credentials and said pastors could be defrocked for "reasons of unbecoming conduct, disloyalty or dereliction of duty." He declined to be more specific.

This week, Perry reacted abruptly to the attempt by the Minneapolis church to ignore the UFMCC verdict, insisting it was valid in every district, regardless of where charges originated.

"[Her credentials are] revoked. Period," Perry said. "All over our fellowship. That's in our bylaws."

Nonetheless, the Minneapolis church confirmed again this week that Shepherd remains in her position.

Doug Beck, spokesperson for the governing board of All God's Children MCC, said Shepherd continues as senior pastor with the support of the congregation.

"We have seen nothing [and] our church has been provided with nothing that even remotely validates any of this information," Beck said.

The Minneapolis church also said last week that Shepherd had told congregants there that she had not been told the reason for the charges against her.

Rev. Jay Neely, district coordinator for the Gulf Lower Atlantic District, vigorously disputed that account.

"She was aware of the charges," Neely said, though he refused to discuss specifics of the allegations. "I have been advised that I need to not give you any more information, not because we keep it secret, but because we respect the privacy of the individual."

**UFMCC leaders say that despite claims to the contrary by her new church in Minnesota, Rev. Glenna Shepherd was aware of the specific charges that led to her credentials being revoked.**

Accusations against Shepherd were brought before GLAD, which includes Atlanta. Her new Minneapolis congregation is part of the UFMCC's Mountains & Plains District, which again this week refused comment on the case or Shepherd's status there.

When Shepherd left Christ Covenant last September, she told *Southern Voice* that there were no problems associated with her leadership at the Decatur church, which she helped found as a breakaway congregation from Atlanta's All Saints MCC in 1992.

Under Shepherd's leadership, Christ Covenant MCC was known as "the women's MCC," with a membership that was approximately 70 percent female, though men are welcome to join.

Beck said Shepherd served as the interim pastor at Minneapolis' All God's Children MCC from October 2000 until March 25, when the congregation voted for her to take the regular post of senior pastor.

"The congregation was aware of the charges [against Shepherd] prior to the vote," Beck said, though he added that church members did not know the specifics of the charges. "And the congregation still voted overwhelmingly to support her and elect her as our pastor."

### *A time for healing?*

Paul Graetz, minister of Atlanta's First MCC, has a unique perspective on the controversy surrounding Shepherd. He said he is a longtime friend of Shepherd's and originally recommended she look at All God's Children MCC, where he once served as pastor.

Graetz was also present during Shepherd's March disciplinary hearings.

"[I was] overwhelmed when I heard everything that came out [during the hearings]," he said last week.

Graetz also declined comment on the specifics of the charges against Shepherd, and expressed some frustration with rules that keep church members, and the public, in the dark about allegations against MCC clergy.

"I think it creates a white elephant in the room," Graetz said. "There's a whole lot more healing in the community when you say, 'This is what it was. It's done. It's over. Let's move on."

Graetz said the case is an unprecedented one because it involves two congregations in two different MCC districts.

"Consequently, the two districts have not correlated information and what's happening is news is traveling faster than the denomination itself is keeping up with it," Graetz said

Neely, who ordained Shepherd, called her an extremely competent pastor, a view shared by Graetz, who called her a "dear friend."

Shepherd is the 31st minister to be defrocked in the UFMCC's 33-year history, according to Charles Tigard, executive assistant to the UFMCC board of elders. She is the third pastor to have credentials revoked in the GLAD district since 1995.

Graetz said the fact that charges were brought against Shepherd at all reflects a maturation of the denomination.

"The UFMCC has now created congregations that recognize unhealthy behavior," Graetz said. "They're healthy and they say, 'Wait a minute, something is going on here that is unhealthy,' and they blow the whistle.

"Years ago maybe we weren't healthy enough as a congregation. We were young and not knowledgable and years ago probably something like this may have been dismissed," he said.

**INFO**

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# DeKalb makes first-of-its-kind move to DP

## County Commissioners make county only one in Georgia to offer benefits to gay partners of employees

by PENNY WEAVER

DECATUR, Ga.—DeKalb is now the first county in Georgia to offer domestic partner benefits to its employees.

By a 6-1 vote on April 26, DeKalb commissioners agreed to allow gay and unmarried straight workers to sign up their partners for health, dental, life and vision insurance. The City of Atlanta is the only other local government in the state to provide DP benefits.

Commissioner Elaine Boyer cast the dissenting vote on the measure. Repeated attempts to contact Boyer, the panel's lone GOP member, were unsuccessful.

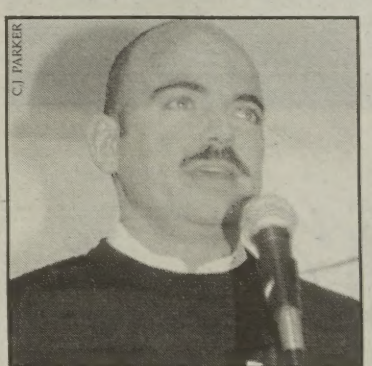
Harry Knox, executive director of Georgia Equality, the statewide gay political group, said offering the benefits is a step in the right direction for the county and its newly-elected CEO Vernon Jones, who backed the benefits during his campaign last year but softened his support earlier this year.

"It's just the way gay folks ought to be treated and the way policy ought to be made," Knox said.

But Stephen Scarborough, staff attorney at the Atlanta office for Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, said that straight married couples do not have to meet the same criteria as domestic partners in DeKalb.

There are no requirements for straight couples, for example, to be each other's dependent or wait 12 months between marriages to sign up a new spouse for benefits, as is required for the county's domestic partners.

The DeKalb DP amendment for employee benefits requires that partners meet 14 criteria to receive the insurance offerings, including proving that they share a primary residence, showing that they have a committed person relationship and demonstrating that any prior domestic partnership in which either partner was involved was terminated no less than 12 months prior to the couple signing up for county benefits.




**Harry Knox, executive director of the gay political group Georgia Equality, said the addition of domestic partner benefits for employees in DeKalb County is an important step toward equality for gays.**

An estimated 1 percent of the county's 7,000 employees may request the DP benefits, according to Lance Robertson, a DeKalb County spokesperson.

The new offerings will cost the county about $200,000 annually, Robertson said. The county currently pays $39 million each year for health and life insurance benefits for its employees.

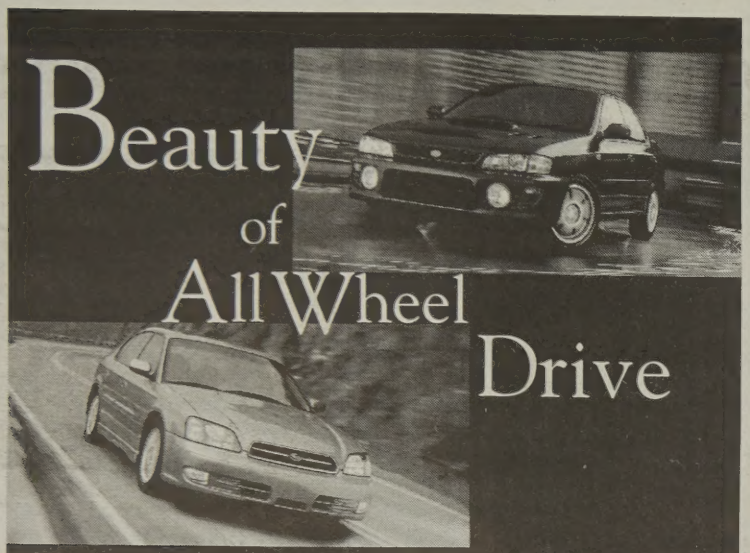
East Point city officials are also considering similar benefits for employees. A public hearing on the matter has been proposed but has not yet been scheduled. The council's next regular meeting is May 7.

In Fulton County, which encompasses most of the city of Atlanta, a move to offer DP benefits has stalled.

Commission Chair Mike Kenn, a Republican, once backed efforts to draft a partner benefits package, but late last year retreated from that support.

Georgia Equality and the gay Georgia Log Cabin Republicans both backed Kenn in his 1998 campaign, based on his promise at that time to support DP benefits for Fulton employees.

Beauty of All Wheel Drive



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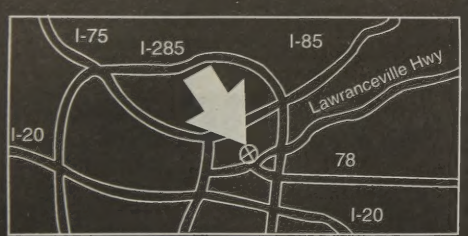



# Backstreet's late-night last call in limbo

## Lawsuit seeks injunction against new ATL ordinance that could end popular nightclub's Sunday alcohol service

by PENNY WEAVER

ATLANTA—The flow of alcoholic beverages for patrons at popular 24-hour gay nightclub Backstreet Atlanta is on borrowed time this week.

Backstreet is still open and pouring all hours—for now—and a lawsuit has been filed against the City of Atlanta by the club's attorneys. But at press time, a hearing was yet to be set on an injunction that would keep alcohol flowing 24 hours a day at Backstreet and other 24-hour clubs in the city until the litigation is resolved.

Backstreet faced a reduction in its alcohol serving hours after the City Council this spring approved an ordinance redefining private clubs. Once grandfathered into the non-profit definition of private clubs, establishments like Backstreet lost that status under the new ordinance.

The club would not be allowed to sell alcohol 24 hours a day under the measure, which was to take effect April 30.

But the city has not yet enforced that law, according to attorney Jackson Cook of Cook, Youngelson & Wiggins, the law firm representing Backstreet. And the first part of the lawsuit—a request for an injunction blocking enforcement of the ordinance—would keep Backstreet open all the time until the litigation runs its course in U.S. District Court.

Cook said he expects the hearing on the temporary restraining order to occur as early as Thursday.

"I think it will be this week. They do these things pretty quickly," Cook said Tuesday. "In the mean time, we're just going to keep on keeping on until we're told differently."

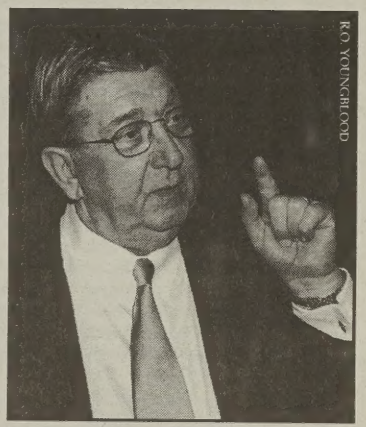
John Quigley, an Atlanta Police Department spokesperson, said the department will enforce the new ordinance. When asked for clarification, Quigley said his answer was limited to addressing simply whether or not police will enforce that law. "Yes," Quigley said.

Attorneys for Backstreet and two other 24-hour clubs—the Riviera and the Crystal Palace—filed the lawsuit on April 24, a move expected by Atlanta officials.

Lisa Morchower, senior assistant city attorney, said the city stands behind the Council's action.

"We knew we would be receiving a lawsuit. It's not a surprise," Morchower said. "We will defend it vigorously. We think we have a very good defense."

In the lawsuit, attorneys for Backstreet alleged that the new ordinance will cause club owners to "lose all, or substantially all, economically viable use of their properties."



R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

**Backstreet attorney Jackson Cook wants an injunction to halt enforcement of Atlanta's new club ordinance.**

The suit states that the city's actions violate both the U.S. and the Georgia constitutions and exceed the city's legislative authority.

The club owners have "invested substantial amounts of time, effort, and money into improving their businesses and facilities with the specific expectation of retaining their status as a private clubs (sic) with alcoholic beverage licenses," according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit seeks a permanent injunction to prevent the city from enforcing the ordinance, a judgment in favor of the clubs and seeks compensatory damages.

On March 19, the Atlanta City Council approved the ordinance to redefine private clubs and curb the hours in which alcoholic beverages may be served.

The measure was sponsored by Derrick Boazman and received a unanimous thumbs-up from Council members. Mayor Bill Campbell signed the ordinance into law on March 27.

The legislation requires all private clubs to be non-profit, does not allow dues to be paid on a daily basis and states "in no event shall the corporation have as its primary purpose the operation of an establishment licensed for the sale of alcoholic beverages."

Private clubs which fit the new definition may serve alcohol from 9 a.m. to 4 a.m. on weekdays, 9 a.m. Saturdays until 2:55 a.m. the following day, and 24 hours on Sundays.

That means that even if Backstreet qualified as a non-profit private club, its tradition of "always open and pouring" would end.

For businesses that cannot meet the new private club definition—including Backstreet as it currently operates—pouring hours will be trimmed back to match those of any other establishment holding a city liquor license: 9 a.m. to 4 a.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 2:55 a.m. Saturdays.

Only businesses classified as restaurants may serve alcohol on Sundays, and then only from 12:30 p.m. until midnight.

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# Custody case echoes struggles of other lesbian moms

➢ Continued from Page 1

parents agreed not to visit the children "during any time where [one] cohabits with or has overnight stays with any adult" to whom they are not married or related.

A Floyd County judge ruled Jan. 30 that "a Georgia trial court is not authorized to consider a foreign 'civil union' as equivalent to a marriage."

He cited both the federal Defense of Marriage Act, sponsored by Congressman Bob Barr (R-Ga.) and signed by former President Bill Clinton, which allows states to not recognize gay marriages performed in other states, and Georgia's ban on recognizing same-sex marriages, finding that the consent order remained enforceable against Freer.

But Salmon also declined to find Freer in "willful contempt" of the order "in view of [her] considerable effort... to travel to Vermont and enter civil union in her professed effort to comply with the consent visitation order."

Now that the state Court of Appeals has agreed to hear the case, possibly as early as this fall, Susan Freer's attorney said he is prepared to argue that the Georgia constitution's right to privacy trumps the state's ban on gay marriages.

"They were married in Vermont," said Cartersville attorney Adrian Lanser. "Recent Georgia Supreme Court [rulings] have held that right to privacy is a fundamental right and can only be abridged if there's a compelling state interest to do so.

"By virtue of the fundamental right to privacy, their marriage should be honored," he said. "If we have this sacred right to privacy in the state of Georgia, then there you have it. Either it applies to all people or it doesn't apply to anybody."

Another part of the argument in Freer's favor is that under the U.S. Constitution, states must give "full faith and credit" to other state laws, according to Lanser. That constitutional provision trumps the federal DOMA pushed by Barr, he will argue.

"The 'problem' is that they're married," he said. "The state of Vermont has said that while the state of Georgia has not enacted a same-sex marriage [law], the state of Vermont has. It should be accorded the same full faith and credit that Georgia law would have.

"Vermont has this law, and... the state of Georgia needs to abide by it," Lanser added.

But Mathew Staver, president and general counsel of Orlando-based Liberty Counsel, the law firm representing Burns, said marriage is limited to Georgia couples of the opposite sex.

"Traditional family relationships between a man and a woman have been recognized as the bedrock of American society," Staver said. "The civil unions recognized in the state of Vermont are not the equivalent of marriage, and even if Vermont recognized homosexual marriages, the other 49 states are not required to recognize such relationships.

"The federal Defense of Marriage Act states that the Full Faith and Credit Clause does not require one state to recognize a homosexual marriage sanctioned by another state," Staver added. The court may be forced to decide whether Congress could so easily override the Full Faith and Credit Clause without amending the Constitution, though the clause as written has a "public policy" exception.

"Homosexual relationships are not rooted in American society as a fundamental freedom," Staver said. "All relationships are not required to be recognized from one state to another, just like bigamy would not be a recognized relationship."

## Freer case similar to other GA custody battles

The problem facing Susan Freer is not one that is new to lesbian mothers in this state. Last year, an appeals court and the Georgia Supreme Court rejected appeals filed by Jean Ann Vawter, who was found guilty by a Walton County judge of "willful contempt" of a similar visitation provision.

Vawter and her children's father, Douglas Vawter, agreed to "maintain each child in a morally and physically wholesome environment and... not expose any child to any meretricious relationship."

The judge ruled that Jean Ann Vawter does not provide a "morally and physically wholesome environment" because she shared a home and bedroom with Susan Echterling, her partner of four years, and "takes no measure to prevent the children's exposure to the relationship," the judge said.

The Georgia Supreme Court, without comment, refused to hear the case. Jean Ann Vawter's attorneys had argued that forcing her to choose between living with her partner or her children, and ordering her not to discuss her sexual orientation, violated her constitutional rights to privacy, free speech, intimate and expressive association, and due process.

Her ex-husband countered that Vawter willingly signed a consent decree with the provisions she later resisted.

At the time of the June 2000 Walton County ruling, the Vermont civil union law had not yet gone into effect.

**Marriage in Georgia is reserved for heterosexual couples only, said Mathew Staver, president and general counsel of Orlando-based Liberty Counsel, which is representing Darian Burns, Susan Freer's ex-husband.**

Since Vermont approved its landmark statute—the first in the nation to come close to providing full marriage-like rights to gay couples—no case has tested the validity of such unions under Georgia law.

The Freer case also could also be the first to challenge Georgia's law banning recognition of same-sex marriages, which Lanser said he will argue is unconstitutional.

No state has yet recognized same-sex civil unions in Vermont as marriages, making Freer's appeal an important test case that other states are likely to follow closely.

# Woolard says council map is 'gerrymandering'

➢ Continued from Page 1

guidelines from the U.S. Justice Department. Only Council members Debi Starnes (District 2) and Lee Morris (District 7) joined Woolard in supporting the alternative.

The same trio later cast the only "no" votes on the Dorsey map. Besides Dorsey, the proposal splitting Lake Claire and Candler Park was supported by Michael Bond, Cleta Winslow, Felicia Moore, C.T. Martin, Jim Maddox, Derrick Boazman, "Able" Mable Thomas and Doug Alexander.

Council members Julia Emmons, Vern McCarty and Claire Muller were not present for the meeting.

The map approved by the Council more than a week ago moved both the Lake Claire and Candler Park neighborhoods, which are mostly white and heavily gay, from District 6 into Dorsey's District 5, creating a unified Atlanta-in-DeKalb district.

The new plan, backed by Dorsey, moves only Lake Claire into District 5, which also includes the other neighborhoods popular with gays, including Cabbagetown, Kirkwood, East Lake and East Atlanta.

District 6 includes Midtown, Virginia-Highland, Candler Park and Morningside, and is widely viewed as the city district with the most gay residents.

**INFO**

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for example, for Cathy Woolard: cwoolard@ci.atlanta.ga.us

## Gay group okay with new map

Harry Knox, executive director of Georgia Equality, the statewide gay political group, said the newly approved map offers enough strength for gay voters in both District 5 and District 6, even though it leaves Candler Park in the latter district. Knox has said that in order for a gay candidate to be viable, a district needs to have an estimated gay population near 15 percent.

"We're still meeting our target numbers," Knox said. "From our standpoint, it does not hurt us, because the numbers still stay at 15 percent or greater. [The new map] still adds another largely gay neighborhood to [District] 5 without taking any of the neighborhoods that we've been talking about out of 5."

The vast majority of city residents who attended Monday's Council meeting and spoke out were African-American voters from District 5. Knox, who wasn't present for the meeting, said Georgia Equality worked behind the scenes prior to the meeting.

"From a lobbying standpoint, what was said in that meeting [Monday] night was windowdressing," he said.

## Woolard, Dorsey at odds over maps

Dorsey, who is African-American, argued that the first map adopted by the Council sharply diluted the percentage of black voters in her district, going from 78 percent African-American to 66 percent. The new map puts that figure at 77 percent.

Justice Department guidelines for redistricting indicate that the city should districts draw to accommodate population shifts, dividing the additional population as evenly as possible.

**District 6 representative Cathy Woolard, the only openly gay member of the Atlanta City Council, voted against the new redistricting proposal that splits Lake Claire voters from neighbors in Candler Park and Druid Hills.**

According to the 2000 Census, that would ideally allot 34,706 people in each Atlanta city district. Deviations below or above that number are allowed up to 5 percent.

Under the earlier plan approved by the Council, only three districts would have exceeded 4 percent above or below that target number. But Woolard opposed Dorsey's plan because seven of the 12 districts come in at least 4 percent above or below the goal of 34,706.

# Gay party promoter shot

## Spivey's injuries apparently not life-threatening

ATLANTA—Ronnie Spivey, one of the city's most well-known gay party promoters, was shot in an apparent robbery attempt Sunday in front of his home, police say.

Spivey, 33, was in the front yard of his home at 805 Myrtle St. with a friend, Michael Tyler, when two black males approached them, according to John Quigley, public information officer for Atlanta Police Department.

"One of [the suspects] just said, 'Give me your money,' and shot into the air," Quigley said.

Spivey was shot in the buttocks and left leg, but Tyler was not hurt, Quigley said. Late Tuesday, Spivey remained hospitalized at Grady Health System in Atlanta; a hospital spokesperson refused to release his condition.

Quigley said the APD's robbery division is handling the case, but he was unsure if the suspects took any money or items from Spivey and Tyler before fleeing.

The suspects are described as both between 20 and 25 years old, and between the height of 5 feet, 5 inches and 5 feet, 11 inches.

—*From staff reports*

**Popular gay party promoter Ronnie Spivey, shown here at this year's Change of Seasons party, was hospitalized after a shooting Sunday in front of his Atlanta home.**

# ATL circuit party to donate $5,000

by ANDY COLE

ATLANTA—Organizers behind last month's Change of Seasons circuit party said they will be making a $5,000 donation to the Atlanta Humane Society despite flagging attendance at the annual event.

"Attendance was down this year. But even after all the negative publicity that *Southern Voice* gave us, we still had a good turnout," said Jeff Bailey, a co-owner of the event held April 20-22, citing news coverage of the refusal by several gay and AIDS organization to associate with the circuit party.

**INFO**

**Change of Seasons**
P.O. Box 1579
Monroe Dr., Ste. F #901
Atlanta, GA 30324
404-659-4467
www.achangeofseasons.com
director@achangeofseasons.com

*Southern Voice* was one of several media sponsors of the event, now in its fourth year and under its third set of owners.

Daniel Walker, another Change of Seasons co-owner, said organizers are preparing to hand out this year's donation.

COS organizers had announced that a portion of the event's proceeds this year would go to YouthPride, the Decatur-based organization offering support for gay and lesbian youth. But YouthPride turned down the offer.

Bailey said at the time that AID Atlanta and Project Open Hand also declined previously to be Change of Seasons beneficiaries.

Under the terms of a contract between Change of Seasons and the Humane Society, at least $4,000 was to be donated by event organizers in exchange for use of the charity's name, according to Dawn Eichen, AHS spokesperson.

Walker was unable by press time to provide detailed information about Change of Seasons expenses or attendance.

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# YouthPride plans Unity March, slate of May events

## Synergy events expand gay youth group's outreach

by ANDY COLE

ATLANTA—Synergy, the concept of a whole being greater than the sum of its parts, may not be an idea usually linked with young gays. Often isolated, frequently closeted, gay youths may tend to have less of a voice than their numbers warrant.

But in Atlanta, as in larger cities across the country, gay youth groups are effectively challenging this norm, offering social outlets, promoting visibility and—to borrow the word Atlanta's YouthPride uses to describe its May events—creating synergy by establishing a group for out gay youths.

This month, the organization is holding a series of "Synergy Events" for those age 13 to 24, including movie nights, a picnic in Piedmont Park, a fund-raiser with Actors Express, a presentation by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and a march in downtown Atlanta.

YouthPride regularly has social events on Friday nights, which this month will include a screening of "Charlie's Angels" on May 11, and an Actors Express performance of the campy Charles Ludlam play, "The Mystery of Irma Vep," at the King Plow Arts Center on May 18.

The biggest event scheduled for the month is the third annual Unity Above Hate march in downtown Atlanta, set for May 26. For this year's march, Badger said, a turnout of around 300 people is expected. The participants will walk from the state Capitol around 2 p.m. to a rally at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center on Auburn Avenue.

"We started talking about Matthew Shepard's death and how it affects us as gay youth. There were some kids from Boston visiting that day, and they told us about their YouthPride Day in Boston, said John Badger, who started at YouthPride as a participant in 1997 and now works as the organization's community outreach manager.

"We chose some issues that were relevant to us as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered youth—hate crimes, media representation and transgender issues—and decided to organize a similar march," he said.

Prior to the march, four educational workshops will be conducted in the Legislative Office Building across from the Capitol, beginning at 10 a.m. One will focus on the ACLU's "Sticks and Stones" campaign, designed to promote school safety for gay students. Another, led by Southerners on New Ground, is titled "Resurrecting History as a Political Act."

The North Carolina Lambda Youth Network will lead a third workshop, focused on dealing with gay youth in correctional facilities: "Getting Screwed by the Prison Industrial System." According to Badger, the idea for YouthPride "started in 1995 with a group of therapists in DeKalb County who saw the number of youth seeking their services for gay and lesbian issues rise dramatically and thought a community-based group to address these issues was a good idea."

"A lot of our youth aren't in places where they can be that open and honest with their parents," Badger added. "They're in fear of repercussions. We have a lot of homeless youth who have been kicked out of their homes after they come out.

"On the flip side, there are some parents that drive from as far away as Alabama to bring their young people here, on a weekly basis."

YouthPride is now in its seventh year and its second home, after moving last year from its original Candler Park location to a much larger building in downtown Decatur.

**INFO**

**YouthPride**
302 E. Howard Ave.
Decatur, GA
mail: P.O. Box 15448
Atlanta, GA 30333
phone: 404-378-6620
fax: 404-378-6450
Web: www.youthpride.org

YouthPride has set its third annual Unity Above Hate March for May 26, part of a busy month of activities for the group.

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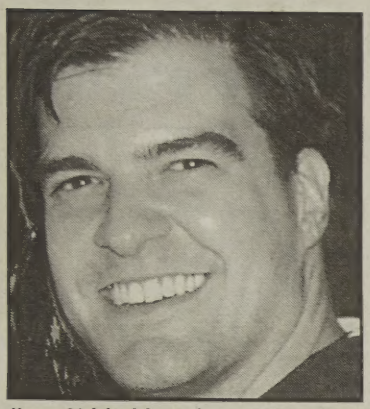


Happy 29th birthday to former *SoVo* graphic designer Lucas Mire on May 8.

# atlanta/ga. occasions

## birthdays

The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus wishes a very happy birthday to its member Sean McClenney (Tenor II) on May 5.

The directors of Georgia Equality wish a happy birthday to Jimmie Scott on May 8 and Steve Koval on May 9.

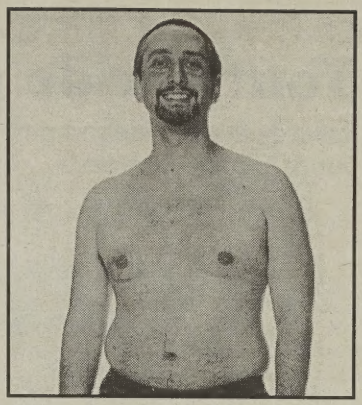
The Atlanta Freedom Marching Band wishes a happy birthday to Lavonne C. on May 9.

*Southern Voice* wishes a happy birthday to its internet expert, Al Cotton, on May 10.

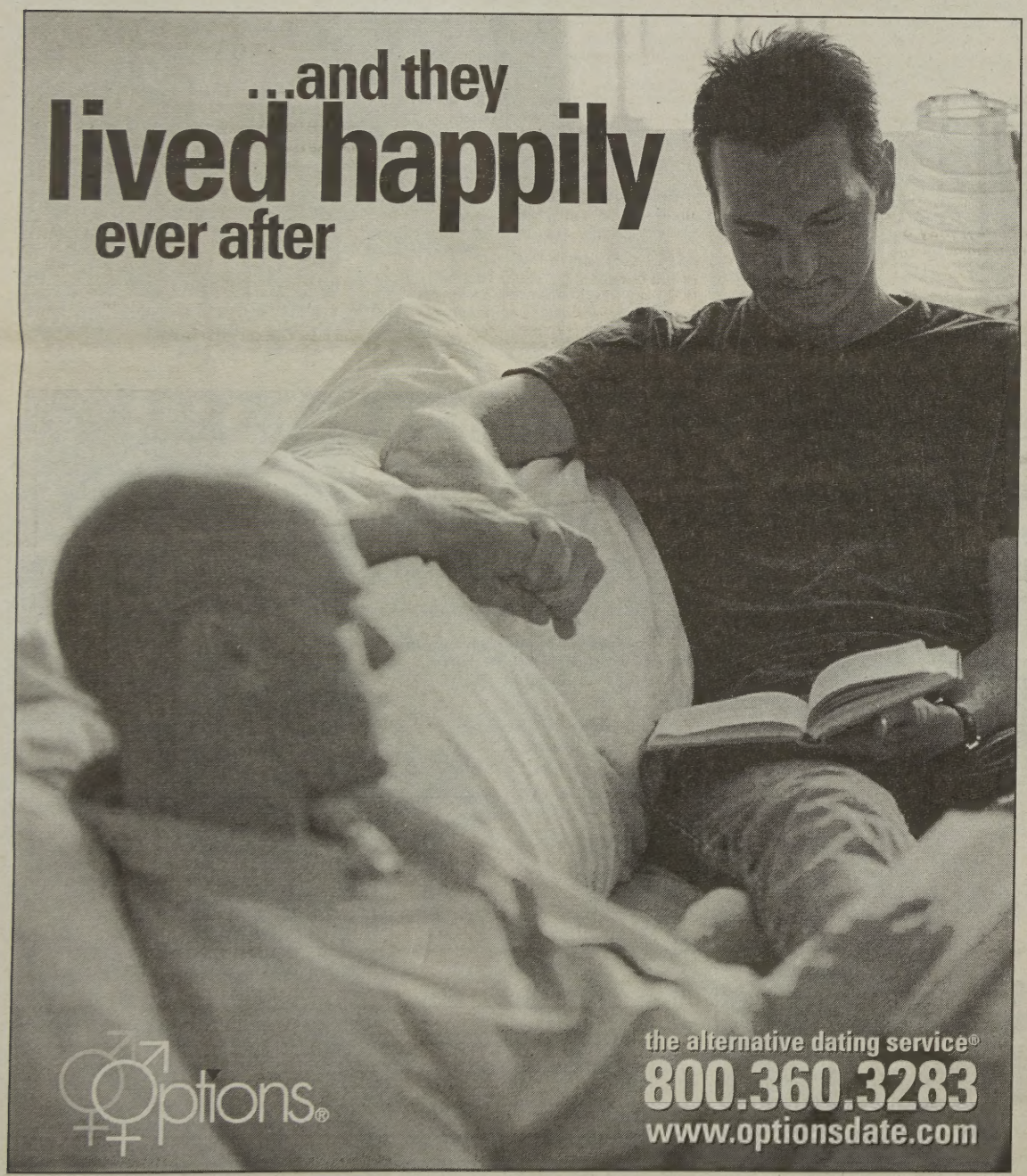
Front Runners Atlanta wishes happy birthdays to Ray Zavacki on May 5, Jim Kane on May 6, and Aaron Alston on May 8.

Happy birthday to Guy Giumento—who's having a party at the Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center on May 4.

Rennee K. would like to wish 'd like to wish a certain Jamie M. a happy birthday on the 30th of April (not the 29th, haha). From someone who thinks about her first thing in the morning and last thing at night!!



'Life as he knows it is about to end for former *SoVo* columnist Steve (Buddha Belly) Koval, who turns the big 4-0 on May 8. Happy B-day, Oprah! Love, Xena'




## pet of the week

Molly is a 40-pound, 1-year-old Shepherd mix. She's a sweet girl who's had a rough time. When she was found, she was dragging a huge chain around her neck and had recently had puppies. She's been through heartworm treatment and is completely vetted. Her ideal home would be with another companion animal and a loving human or two. Please call Allison for an interview. 404-522-0899.

## got something to celebrate?

Southern Voice *will gladly publish birthday wishes, anniversaries and other milestones in readers' lives. Simply e-mail your special occasions to* Southern Voice *at occasions@sovo.com. Call: 404-876-1819. Fax: 404-876-2709. Write:* Southern Voice/Occasions, 1095 Zonolite Rd., Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30306. *NOTE: You must include a phone number. All occasions are verified by telephone.*

# atlanta/across ga. calendar

*To add a listing, e-mail calendar@sovo.com, call 404-876-1819, ext. 34, or fax to 404-876-2709.*

## athens

### saturday, may 5

**GLBT Teen Group**. 2 pm. Presbyterian Student Center. 706-546-4611 or stock@negia.net.

### monday, may 7

**Lambda Alliance.** 7 pm. UGA's GLBT student organization. Room 142 of Tate Student Center. No meetings during breaks or finals weeks. jcraig@arches.uga.edu

## atlanta

### friday, may 4

**Atlanta Freedom Marching Band.** 7 pm. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way. 404-622-0666

**Atlanta Rainbow Trout.** 7:30 pm. Ladies night swim. Water polo/swim practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

**Hotlanta Volleyball Association.** Evenings. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

**YouthPride.** Drop-in, 4:30 pm-12 am. Community Social "Singled Out" (ages 13-24), 8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

### saturday, may 5

**Atlanta Girth & Mirth.** 9 pm. Social activities for large men and their admirers. The Eagle, 306 Ponce de Leon. 770-663-7041

**Atlanta Team Tennis Association Open Play.** 2-6 pm. Social tennis for players at all levels. Piedmont Park. 770-621-2699

**Black Lesbians & Bisexual Women.** 7 pm. "Family Embrace," a support group for black women who love women. 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. Ste. 600. 404-523-7500

**Free Morning at the High.** 10 am-noon. Fulton County residents get two free tickets to the High Museum of Art. 404-733-4400

**Front Runners.** Meet at 8 am in parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

**Georgia Field Hockey Association Women's League.** 9 am-noon. All skill levels welcome. Nori, 770-985-4903

**Human Rights Campaign Dinner.** 6:30 pm. Fourteenth annual fundraiser with Rep. Richard Gephardt and Daniel Lipman & Ron Cowen, producers of Queer as Folk. Hyatt Regency downtown. $175 per person; $90 for full-time students. 800-494-8497

**YouthPride.** Noon to 6 pm. Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) Media Essentials Training. 302 E. Howard Ave., Decatur. 404-378-6620

### sunday may 6

**20-Something.** 6:30 pm. For persons 21-30. Innovox Lounge, 699 Ponce de Leon. 404-523-7500

**Actor's Express 13th Anniversary.** Presentation of "Thirteen Vignettes;" dinner and cocktails. King Plow Arts Center. 404-875-1606

**Atlanta Rainbow Trout.** 11 am. Water polo/swim practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

**Ballroom Dance Lessons.** 2 pm. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way. 404-876-3950

**Black Lesbian Group.** 4 pm. Coming out support group. YouthPride Center, 302 E. Howard, Decatur. 404-370-0920

**Dog Hikers of GA.** 10 am. All hikers with or without dogs welcome. 770-992-2362

**Southeast Gay Rodeo Association.** Monthly meeting. 770-622-9510

### monday, may 7

**Atlanta Opera Club.** 7 pm. For opera buffs, from the curious to the connoisseur. David Rogers 404-237-4218

**Coming Out Group.** 7 pm. For lesbians, bisexuals and gay men who want to live their lives openly. Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 6th Floor. 404-523-7500. www.aglc.org

### tuesday, may 8

**Atlanta Lesbian Lifestyles.** 7 pm. For women who enjoy the company of other women. My Sisters' Room. 404-929-6654 or www.belladona.org

**Atlanta Outworlders.** Interest group for glbt science fiction fans meets at Mss Q's on Amersterdam Ave. for "Buffy" and "Dark Angel." 770-451-8947. www.outworlders.org

**Atlanta Rainbow Trout.** 8:30 pm. Swim practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

**Atlanta Sierra Club Meeting.** 7:30 pm. Garden Hills Community Center. 404-607-1262

**GLBT Parenting Group.** 7 pm. For gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered parents. 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-523-7500

**Front Runners Run/Walk.** 6:30 pm. Meet at the CVS shopping center at the northwest corner of Commerce Drive and Ponce De Leon Ave, Decatur. 770-621-5007

**Hotlanta Volleyball Association.** 7-10 pm. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

**Lambda Literati.** 7 pm. Gay & lesbian readers group. Borders Books & Music, 3637 Peachtree Rd. 404-237-0707

**YouthPride.** Drop-in, 4:30-10 pm. Gender-Bender, 8-10 pm. Youth Pride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

### wednesday, may 9

**Donor Inseminations and GLBT Parenting.** 7:30 pm. Feminist Women's Health Center presents second meeting of two-part seminar, "The Legal & Psychological Issues of GLBT Parenting." 1924 Cliff Valley Way. Gail, 404-874-7551, or gailp@atlfwhc.org

**Front Runners** 6:30 pm. Meet at parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

**Gay Fathers of Atlanta.** 7:30 pm. All are welcome. Atlanta-Fulton Library, 980 Ponce de Leon. 404-342-6451

**Volunteer Meeting.** 4-7 pm. Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund. 1447 Peachtree St, Ste 1004. 404-897-1880

**YouthPride.** Drop-in, 4:30-10 pm. Teen Support Group (ages 13-18), 6-7:30 pm. Youth Council, 7:30-8:30 pm. Young Adult Discussion Group (ages 18-24), 8:30-10 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

### thursday, may 10

**Atlanta Rainbow Trout.** 8:30 pm. Swim practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

**Bridge Lessons.** 10 am, 7 pm. Atlanta Bridge Center. Peggy Hayslip. 770-300-9895

**Cliterati**. Grrls' spoken word open mic. 8 p.m. Tower II, Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-624-3946, ErinWrites@mindspring.com

**Community Empowerment Lunch.** Noon-1 pm. Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, Piedmont at 10th. 404-607-0082

**Lesbian Avengers.** 7:30 pm. Weekly meeting of Atlanta chapter, open to all ages & gender identities. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave., Decatur. 404-978-1262 ext. 7744, or lesbianavengers@onebox.com

**Men's Discussion Group.** 7 pm. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 6th Floor. 404-523-7500.

**YouthPride.** Drop-in, 4:30-10 pm. Boy Talk (ages 13-18), 8-10 pm. Womyn's Group (ages 13-24), 8:30-10 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

## macon

### friday, may 4

**CCAN Potluck Luncheons.** Noon. Bring a covered dish to share. Diversity House Project, 2020 Ingleside Ave. Free.

### monday, may 7

**Macon Pride Festival Meeting.** 7 pm. Open to the public. locations listed on Web site: http://onmacon.com/pride/macon/meetings.htm.

## savannah

### sunday, may 6

**Friends & Company.** 6 pm. AMF Victory Lanes. 912-354-0658

### monday, may 7

**Bowling League**. 9 pm. For single lesbians and gay men. AmF Savannah Lanes, 115 Tibet Avenue. $10/week. Trey or Trish, 912-925-0320.

### tuesday, may 8

**FCN Board Meeting.** 6 pm. First City Network office, third floor. 912-236-2489

### thursday, may 10

**BOIZ Nite Out.** 7:30 pm. Moon River Restaurant & Brewery. Come early for a pool game downstairs in the private room. Kevin Clark, 912-944-0996.

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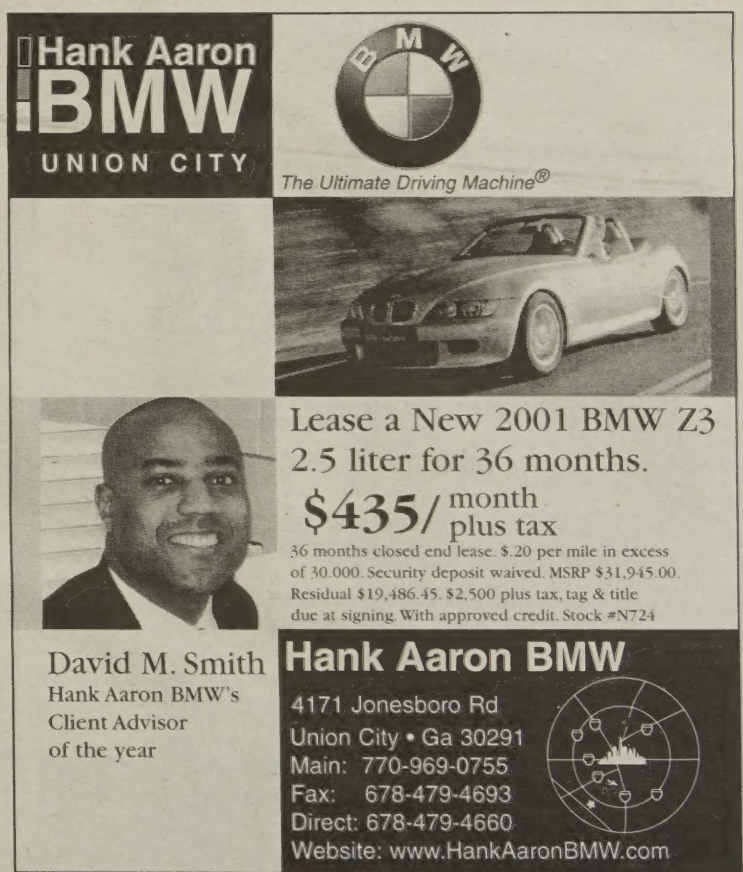
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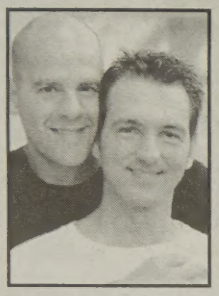

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# atlanta/across ga. events calendar

## may 4- may 10

compiled by ANDY COLE

### special events

**HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN DINNER** Sat 6:30 pm. House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt to give keynote address; "Queer as Folk" producers Ron Cown and Daniel Lipman also scheduled, with introduction from actor Hal Sarks ("Michael"). $175 per person fund-raiser. Hyatt Regency, downtown. 800-494-8497

**MIDTOWN MUSIC** Fri, Sat & Sun. Three-day music festival, including performances by Indigo Girls, Al Green, Talib Kwali, Bob Dylan, the Wallflowers and Arrested Development. Stages near Civic Center Station in central Atlanta. 770-MIDTOWN, www.musicmidtown.com

### lecture/book signings

**ROSEMARY DANIELL** Wed 7 pm. Author of the book of essays "Confessions of a (Female) Chauvinist" discusses her work exploring what happens when a Southern woman breaks the rules. Charis Books, 1189 Euclid. 404-524-0304

### drag/cabaret/ comedy

**BACKSTREET ATLANTA** Thur & Sun, 1 am; Fri & Sat, 11:30 pm: Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret. Sun, 9 pm: the Armorettes. Backstreet Atlanta, 845 Peachtree. 404-873-1986

**BURKHART'S** Sun, 7:30 & 10:30 pm: the Gospel Girls. Mon-Thur: karaoke. 1492-F Piedmont. 404-872-4403

**LE BUZZ** Tue & Thur, 10 pm: Karaoke hosted by Jonathan. 585 Franklin Rd, Marietta. 770-424-1337

**LIBBY'S** Wed thru May 12: Julie Wilson. I-75 & West Paces Ferry. 404-237-1943. www.libbyscaberet.com

**METRO** Mon: Peg's "Mouth of the South Live!" Tue: Latin Night. Wed: Regina Sims presents Silhouettes of Illusion. 1080 Peachtree. 404-874-9869

**NICKIEMOTO'S** Mon, 8:30 pm. "Drag-Amaki" show accompanies dinner. 990 Piedmont Ave. 404-253-2010

**SAMBUCA JAZZ CAFE** Live jazz nightly. 3102 Piedmont Rd. 404-237-5299

**TRAXX** Mon, 10:30 pm & 12:30 am: With your hostess Sophia McIntosh! The Warehouse, 306 Luckie St. 404-681-4422

### dance

**PETER PAN** Thur thru May 20. Atlanta Ballet's new production of the story about the boy who won't grow up. Fox Theatre. 404-817-8700

### galleries/exhibits

**ANTHONY ARDAVIN GALLERY** "Witness," Sebastian Spreng. Thru May 25. 309 East Paces Ferry, Ste. 110. 404-233-9686

**ARTWALK** "The Big Picture: Five Abstract Paintings." Thru June 10. Lennox Square. 770-435-5180

**ATLANTA CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER** "Biennal: When the Wind Blows." Thru June 2. 535 Means Street. 404-688-1970. www.thecontemporary.org

**BREMAN JEWISH HERITAGE CENTER** "Where the Wild Things Are: Maurice Sendak in His Own Words and Pictures." Thru June 31. 1440 Spring St. 404-873-1661

The **Indigo Girls** take the stage at Music Midtown on Saturday night at 8.

**CARLOS MUSEUM** "The Collector's Eye: Masterpieces of Egyptian Art from the Thalassic Collection, Ltd." Thru Jan 6, 2002. 571 S. Kilgo St., Emory University. 404-7274282

**DEGAS & AMERICA** Thru May 27. Exhibit of more than 80 paintings by French Impressionist Edgar Degas. High Museum, 1280 Peachtree. 404-733-HIGH

**ELEVEN50** "Art and Science," exhibition of various mediums of artwork based on scientific realms. 1150-B Peachtree St. 404-874-0428

**FAY GOLD GALLERY** Work from Gail Foster, David Bierk. Thru May 12. 764 Miami Circle. 404-233-3843

**GALERIE VENDOME** Paintings by Stuart Roper. Opening reception Fri 7 pm. Thru May 19. 75 Bennett St., Ste. B-1. 404-355-3554

**HAMMONDS HOUSE GALLERIES** "Women in Mourning and Outrage." Multimedia installation. Thru June 24. 503 Peoples St. 404-752-8730

**HEAVEN BLUE ROSE** Ford Smith, "Blurred Vision." Thru May 11. 934 Canton, Roswell. 770-642-7380

**HIGH MUSEUM** "Art of William Edmonson." Sculptor was first African-American to have one-man show at MOMA. Thru May 19. Also: Gallé Glass, thru June 24. 1280 Peachtree St. NE. 404-733-HIGH

**LOWE GALLERY** Work from David Shapiro, Steve Seinberg, Mark Perlman. Opening reception Fri 6 pm. Thru May 25. 75 Bennett St., Ste. A-2. 404-352-8114

**MARCIA WOOD GALLERY** Work from Mary Engel. Thru May 26. 1831-B Peachtree. 404-351-3930

**OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART** "Nicolas Bouvier: Ecrivain Voyageur Suisse." Thru May 20. 404-364-8555

**PARADIGM ARTSPACE** "The Political Body," Becki Jayne. Thru May 6. 1123 Spring St. 404-815-6991

**ROSWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY** "In Style: 100 Years of Fashion," featuring vintage pieces spanning a century of fashionable dress. Thru May 31. Bulloch Hall. 770-992-1665

**SANDLER HUDSON GALLERY** Lynn Marshall-Linnemeier, "Recurrences and Incantations." Thru May 26. 1831-A Peachtree Rd. 404-350-8480

**SLAM STUDIO GALLERY** Work from Sandra Milton, Melinda Crider & Wendy James. Thru May 18. 1065 Canton St., Roswell. 770-587-0978

**SLOTIN FOLK ART AUCTION** Sat 10 am. Buford Hall, 112 Shadburn Ave., Buford. 770-932-1000

**SPRUILL CENTER** "Pairings." Work from five women artists. Thru May 26. 4681 Ashford-Dunwoody Rd. 770-394-3447

**STUDIO BIBA** Work by Ninetta Adorn Violante. Opening reception Sat 7 pm. Thru June 2. 290 MLK Drive, Building A, Ste D. 404-659-2440

**SWAN COACH HOUSE** King Thackston, "The Deconstruction of American Icons." 3130 Slaton Drive. 404-266-2636.

**THOMAS DEAN & CO.** New paintings by Cathryn Miles. Opening reception Fri 6:30 pm. Thru June 2. 75 Bennett St, Ste. K-2. 404-352-3778

**VINSON GALLERY** "Prints," group exhibition with Catalan, Dutch and English artists. Thru May 19. 119 East Court Square, Decatur. 404-370-1720

**YOUNG MASTERS** "More Cool Brittania," featuring the work of British artist in assorted media. Hastings Seed Building, 434 Marietta St. 404-355-9463

## film

**WATER DROPS ON BURNING ROCKS** Wed 8 pm. Movie about the unraveling of a relationship between an older bachelor and his new boyfriend. (French with English subtitles) High Museum, 1280 Peachtree. 404-733-4570

Minneapolis folk singer **Ann Reed** performs this weekend at St. Bart's. Tickets are available at Charis Books at Little Five Points.

**ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW** Fri midnight. LeFont Plaza, 1049 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-873-1939. Also Sat, midnight. Raises funds for AIDS Survival Project. Blackwell Theater, 3378 Canton Rd, Marietta. 770-428-2617

## music

**2001: A BEETHOVEN ODYSSEY** Sun 3 pm. Final concert of series with Francisco Silva performing the entire cycle of Beethoven piano sonatas. Woodruff. 678-560-9193

**ANN REED** Sun 8 pm. Minneapolis singer-songwriter. St. Bart's, 1790 LaVista Rd. Tickets on sale at Charis Books and at the door. 1-800-947-9180

**ATLANTA SYMPHONY** Fri & Sat 8 pm. Alan Gilbert conducts ASO in a performance of Schubert's "Rosamunde" & Beethoven's 6th, the "Pastorale." 404-733-5000

**GRACIE & THE SLIPCOVERS** Fri 7 pm (all ages) & 9:30 (21+). All female country rock band. Eddie's Attic, 515-B McDonough St., Decatur. 404-377-4976.

## radio

**THIS AMERICAN LIFE** Sun, 4-5 pm. Ira Glass' showcase of America's weird and wonderful regularly features gay humor writer David Sedaris. WABE 90.1 FM

**RADIO FREE GEORGIA** Alternative station's shows of interest include "Sister's Time" Thur, 6 pm; "Alternative Talk" Fri, 5 pm; "Lambda Radio Report" Tue, 6 pm. WRFG 89.3 FM

## television

**OUT TV ATLANTA** Thur, 8:30 pm. Reports on the local gay scene. Cable 2, 9, 19 or 26. Also Tue, 10:30 pm, on cable 7 in Savannah

**WILL & GRACE** Thur, 9 pm. Show about celibate gay men. NBC

**MOUTH OF THE SOUTH LIVE!** Thur, 11 pm; Sat, 10 pm. Peg's weekly cocktail party; taped live at the Metro on Mondays. People TV, cable channel 12 or 24

**AMERICAN MUSIC SHOW** Fri 11 pm; Sat 11:30 pm: "This is the best show I've ever been on!"—RuPaul. People TV, cable channel 12 or 24

**DEAUNDRA PEEK'S TV SHOW** Fri 11:30 pm; Sat 11 pm: People TV, cable channel 12 or 24

**QUEER AS FOLK** Sun, 10 pm. American version of British gay soap. SHOWTIME

**C1TV** Mon, 11 pm. New cable show devoted to gay men and lesbians. Showing censored episodes of "Queer as Folk." Cable 9, 16, 24 or 25

## upcoming

**UNCORK A CURE** May 11, 6-8 pm. Tenth annual wine-tasting fund-raiser for AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta. For reservations and information, call 404-876-2317

**FILM: "SCOUTS HONOR"** May 11, 7:30 pm. Documentary about a 12-year-old Boy Scout who launched a grassroots campaign to overturn the organization's anti-gay policy. Emory University, White Hall Rm. 208. Free. One showing only. www.acluga.org/scoutshonor

**JAY SHLESINGER MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT** May 14. Fifth annual tournament to benefit AID Atlanta. Info and donations, write: 1438 West Peachtree St, Ste. 100, Atlanta, GA 30309; or call 404-870-7732.

**ERIC CLAPTON** May 21. Phillips Arena

**MADONNA.** Aug. 19. Phillips Arena

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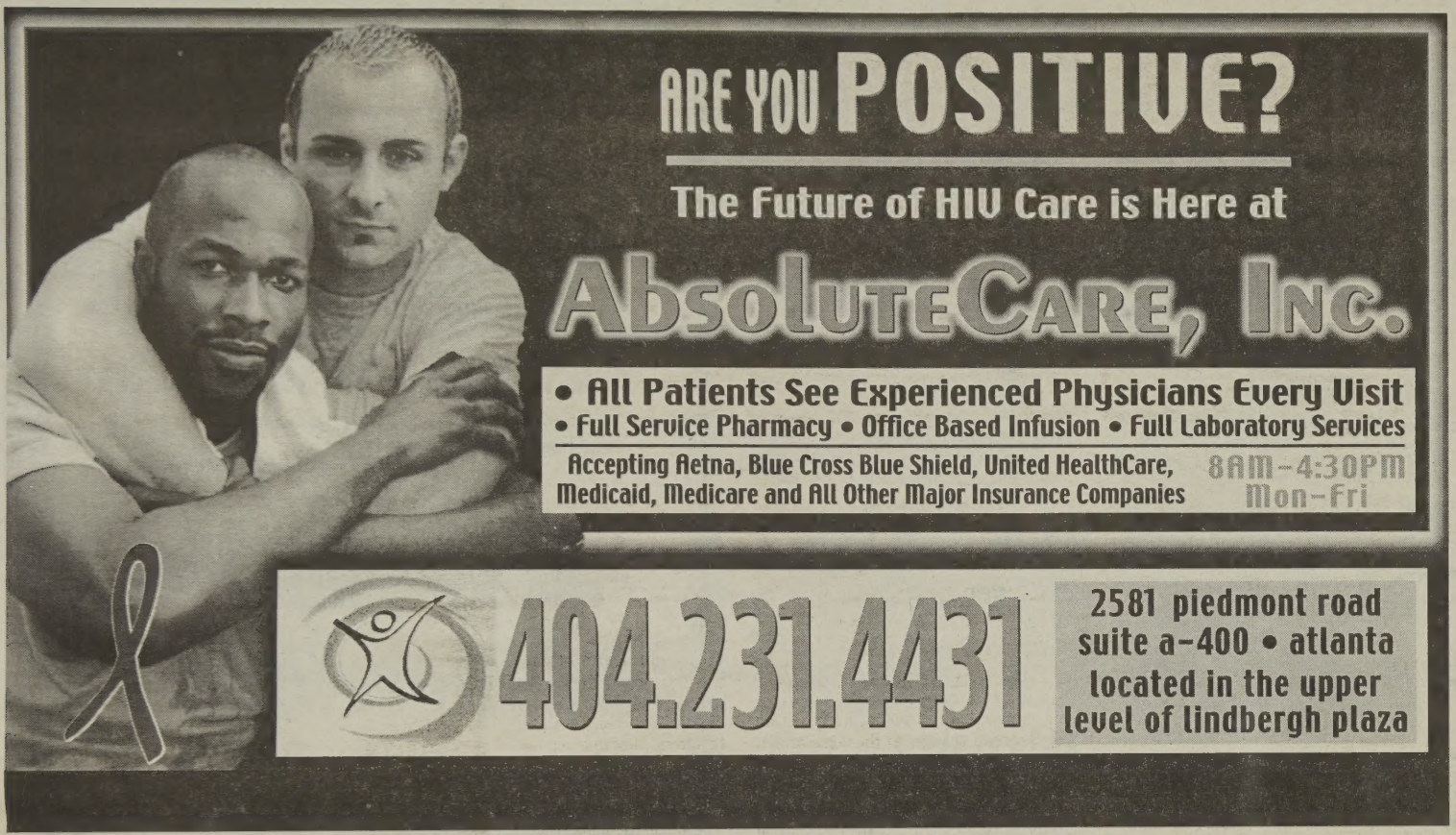
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# Out in Atlanta & Across Georgia

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# Partners in life and work

Queer as Folk producers Ron Cowen and Daniel Lipman come to Atlanta this weekend for the annual Human Rights Campaign dinner at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Atlanta

by ANDY COLE

Since the debut of "Queer As Folk" in December, the Showtime drama series has drawn a great deal of praise and criticism. Favorable reviews see the show as a boldly accurate portrayal of gay life in America, unafraid to talk about drugs and cruising and essentially true to the 10-episode British mini-series on which it is based.

Watching the same program, critics see an over-hyped knock-off, content to substitute stereotypes for realistic portrayals of gay characters.

But, more than either praise or criticism, what QAF has most notably attracted is attention. Whatever the limitations of the program, it has taken America beyond the celibate gay world of "Will & Grace," or the recycled one-liners of "Some of My Best Friends."

Freed from the sensibilities of network primetime, the program—which even Showtime will not air before 10 p.m.—is able to depict gay sex and include conversations about whether Fred Flintstone or Barney Rubble would be a better lay.

In a recent interview with *Southern Voice*, the show's executive producers Ron Cowen and Daniel Lipman—who are partners in life as well as creatively—talked about their show, its mixed reactions and their speaking engagement at the Atlanta Human Rights Campaign dinner on May 5.

QAF has contributed to a surge in Showtime subscriptions, they say, causing the network to renew the program for a second season. At the close of that season, 44 episodes will have aired.

Yet, even subscriber ratings understate the show's following. Gay bars and living rooms in Chelsea, West Hollywood and Midtown Atlanta are packed each Sunday night with queer folk congregating to see characters who resemble their own lives, albeit to a debatable—and much debated—degree.

Defending the show's inclusion of tricks and drugs, Cowen argues, "As long as we know it really exists in real life, and we're trying our best to depict it, that sort of overrides people's objections."

"This whole idea of political correctness always amuses me," Lipman agrees. "We've always felt on the show that within the specific is the universal. [We] are dealing with the truth of these characters—whatever the truths of the characters are.

"We don't judge, whether people are taking drugs, or they're having sex, or they're doing this, or they're into leather."

An example of politically correct absurdity, Lipman says, was a fan who visited the show's Web site early in the season. "Someone said, 'I love the character Michael; he's so wonderful and sweet. But I didn't like that he took drugs the other night at Babylon' [a dance club on the show]. I just reveled in that."

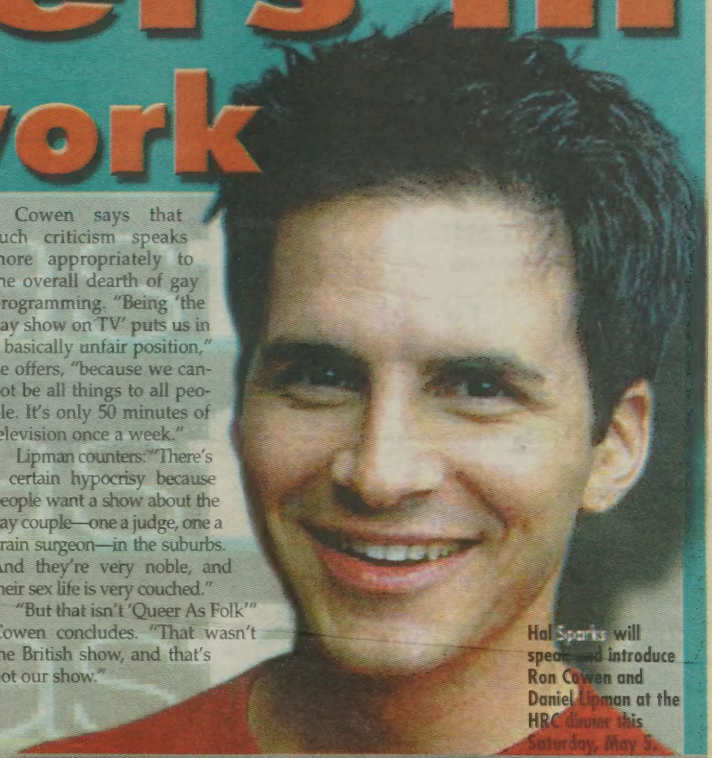
"So yeah," Cowen adds, "Michael is a sweet character. But yeah, he also does recreational drugs sometimes and he goes into the back room sometimes. And that's part of his life, too."

The show does feature drugs and anonymous sex—though Cowen and Lipman point out that only one character, Brian, leads the over-sexed life that many gay men do, and many others seek. This was one aspect of the show cited in a scathing *New York Times* review in January.

Cowen says that such criticism speaks more appropriately to the overall dearth of gay programming. "Being 'the gay show on TV' puts us in a basically unfair position," he offers, "because we cannot be all things to all people. It's only 50 minutes of television once a week."

Lipman counters: "There's a certain hypocrisy because people want a show about the gay couple—one a judge, one a brain surgeon—in the suburbs. And they're very noble, and their sex life is very couched."

"But that isn't 'Queer As Folk'" Cowen concludes. "That wasn't the British show, and that's not our show."



Hal Sparks will speak and introduce Ron Cowen and Daniel Lipman at the HRC dinner this Saturday, May 5.

**INFO**

**Human Rights Campaign Dinner**
May 5
Hyatt Regency Atlanta Downtown
Tickets are $175 per person
800-494-8497

Read more of this interview on www.sovo.com

Ron Cowen and Daniel Lipman—the driving force behind Showtime's 'Queer As Folk'—are adamant about their 'real life' approach to the controversial program's story line.

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# atlanta theater calendar

**The New American Shakespeare Tavern begins a run of Tennessee Williams' 'A Streetcar Named Desire' on May 10, with preview performances Saturday and Sunday.**

*To add a listing, e-mail calendar@sovo.com, call 404-876-1819, ext. 34, or fax to 404-876-2709.*

## OPENING

**A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE** Thur thru June 3. Tennessee Williams classic. Atlanta Shakespeare Company, 499 Peachtree St. Thursdays to Sundays. 404-874-5299

**ART** Thur thru June 17. Alliance Theatre's production of Yasmina Reza's Tony Award-winning play about changes among three friends after one buys an expensive piece of modern art: an all-white painting. Woodruff. 404-733-5000

**PERIPHERAL VISIONS** A celebration of notorious women from myth and history. Theater Gael at 14th Street Playhouse. Mondays to Wednesdays. 404-8761138

**PETER PAN** Thur thru May 20. Atlanta Ballet. Fox Theatre. 404-817-8700

**PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME** A young man leaves Ireland for America. Theatre Gael at 14th Street Playhouse. 404-876-9762

**YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN** Wed thru June 17. All of Charles Shulz's famous characters: Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus & Snoopy. Theatre in the Square, 11 Whitlock Ave., Marietta. 770-422-8369

## CONTINUING

**CAROUSEL** Thru May 6. Rodgers & Hammerstein classic. Ferst Center, GA Tech. 404-894-9600

**AN EVENING WITH MAMA** Thru May 12. Skeletons in the closet of a Madison, Ga., family. 14th Street Playhouse, Stage 3. 404-897-1802

**GOD'S MAN IN TEXAS** Thru May 27. Satire in which a charismatic pastor auditions for the pulpit at the world's largest Baptist church. Alliance Theatre, 1280 Peachtree. 404-733-5000

**I CAN GET IT FOR YOU WHOLESALE** Thru May 20. Broadway musical that launched Barbra Streisand's career. Jewish Theatre of the South, 5342 Tilly Mill Road, Dunwoody. 770-368-7469

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** Thru May 6. Puppet performance of Shakespeare's comedy. Center for Puppetry Arts, 1404 Spring St. 404-873-3391

**OTELLO** Thru May 6. Verdi's opera about the Moorish general. Fox Theatre, 660 Peachtree.

**PSYCHED** Thru May 17. Original dark comedy by Deb Calabria. Funny That Way Theatre Company, 731 Highland Ave. 404-893-3344

**SPACE! IT'S A BLAST** Thru June 9. Galactic journey of scientific facts and pure fantasy. Center for Puppetry Arts, 1404 Spring St. 404-873-3391

**THREE DAYS OF RAIN** Thru May 13. An architect's children attempt to unravel their father's life. Horizon Theatre, Euclid at Austin Ave. 404-584-7450

# on stage

THEATER REVIEWS

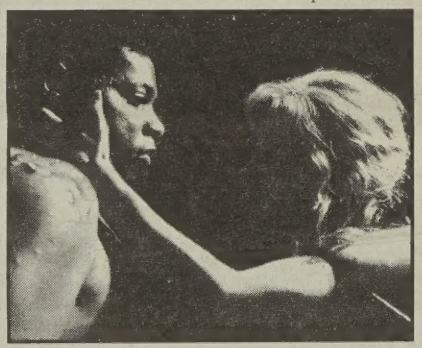
by JIM FARMER

# A triangle of unrest

## Seven Stage's 'Black Battles With Dogs' is a sadly disturbing tale about racial hatred and inter-personal relationships

The story behind 7 Stages' **BLACK BATTLES WITH DOGS** is a rather sad one. French playwright Bernard-Marie Koltes wrote it back in the '80s and tried for a long time to bring it to the Atlanta stage.

Sadly the author died of AIDS before he and Artistic Director Del Hamilton could get it here. It would be so fitting to say that the piece was a triumph, but it's a shaggy, trying work with some unmet potential.



**Seven Stages' Artistic Director Del Hamilton returns to the stage with Janice Akers in 'Black Battles With Dogs.'**

It takes place at a construction site in Africa, where site supervisor Horn (Del Hamilton) is with his new wife Leonie (Janice Akers). Young Cal (Daniel Pettrow) works for Horn, but behind his back accuses Leonie of hanging around Horn simply for the money.

Outside, Alboury (Isma'il ibn Conner) comes to the site to claim the body of his dead brother. He is met with resistance from the men.

Cal (virtually proud of his actions) speaks derogatively about the "nig-nogs" outside and has trained his dog to bark at native Africans. Ultimately, it's Leonie who gets caught up between the three men. More violence kicks in.

A premiere in this country, the play has some dark, disturbing passages. As directed by fellow Frenchman Arthur Nauzyciel, "Black Battles With Dogs" is full of rich acting, haunting images and serious matters. In concept, it's a great work.

But it lingers on and on, near insufferably paced. The first act alone nears the one hour and three-quarters mark and reaches about three climaxes. Many scenes are just unneeded.

It is staged well enough, however, with a veil separating us (and Alboury) from the "white folk"—obvious symbolism but effective. On the flipside—sometimes the sound effects of Xavier Jacquot work, sometimes they do not.

Very recently, 7 Stages presented the apartheid musical-drama "Sweat," which was the company's best production in a long time. Alas, "Black Battles With Dogs" isn't as fully realized or as accessible. Buried somewhere in the playwright's text is a very powerful, still topical treatise on the topic.

Conner manages to interact well with reliable pros Hamilton and Akers. Akers always seems so grounded, so invested in whatever she is doing.

Pettrow, likewise, is quite believable as the murderous Cal, who claims the death was an accident initially. The actor has a daring, tricky five-minute nude scene taking a shower, at first covering his privates then standing directly in front of Leonie, almost taunting her with his naked bravado.

It's a bracing moment, and shocking, and the play itself isn't afraid to throw twists. But it's ultimately just too demanding of its audience and too padded.

Onstage Atlanta is back with **AN EVENING WITH MAMA**, a black comedy about the death of a mother and the chaos that develops when her adult children have gathered. Skeletons come out of closets, and a gay subplot arises in Kathryn Viau's premiere, set in Madison, Ga.

Also, Jon Ludwig, the manic force behind so many shows at the Center for Puppetry Arts, has an encore of his **SPACE.** Aliens take the audience along on their spaceship and gives us a tour of the planets, the sun and moon. It's fast-paced and more energetic than the recent "Mighty Bug."

**INFO**

**'Black Battles With Dogs'**
7 Stages
404-523-7647
Through May 6

**'An Evening with Mama'**
14th Street Playhouse
404-897-1802
Through May 13

**'Space'**
Center for Puppetry Arts
404-873-3391
Through June 9

# out on the town

SCENES FROM ATLANTA NIGHTLIFE

by STON SEIBER

## Music is back in Midtown

### Atlanta's annual festival attracts a diverse crowd for a rockin' line-up of hot acts—local and national

This year's **MUSIC MIDTOWN** festival is substantially less gay—with apparently the **INDIGO GIRLS** as the only out act. They'll perform on the Budweiser 99X stage Sunday at 5:15 p.m.

Despite the lack of gay and lesbian performers—make no mistake about it—there's still much to be enjoyed at this event.

**Head to Music Midtown this weekend for performances by rocker Patti Smith, among others.**

Arkansas native **AL GREEN** has been called "the quintessential soul man." An eight-time Grammy winner, his hits include "Let's Stay Together," and "I'm Still In Love With You." Green performs Saturday on the Coca-Cola V-103 stage at 10:20 p.m.

Be-turbanned singer/songwriter **ERYKAH BADU** scored it big in 1998 with "On and On," later to follow up with the comedic "Tyrone." Look for her Friday at 10:15 p.m. on the Coca-Cola V-103 stage.

A favorite of country singer Lyle Lovett's—**FRANCINE REED** spent eight years as a featured backup vocalist with Lovett's Large Band. A dedicated performer at numerous AIDS benefits and a regular in the Atlanta R&B scene, Reed hit the *Billboard* Blues charts big in 1995 with her single "I Want You To Love Me." Reed performs on the Coca-Cola V-103 stage Saturday afternoon at 3:40 p.m.

Atlanta-based artist **JENNIFER NETTLES** delivers a powerful performance on her latest album, "Story Of Your Bones." No doubt she'll do the same in her powerhouse concert when she takes to the Jose Cuervo/96 Rock stage Saturday at 1:15 p.m.

The **JOSH JOPLIN GROUP** has long been a favorite among gay and lesbian fans. Not just because Joplin helped create a CD to benefit the gay youth group Youth Pride or because they've got a really cute lesbian band member (Deb). Probably a combination of both along with their rockin' music makes this band worth the trek to see them perform on the Budweiser 99X stage Saturday at 3:00 p.m..

**PATTI SMITH**'s sexual orientation has long remained a mystery. Based on her androgynous appeal and thought-provoking music (she hit the top 20 on the pop charts back in 1979 with "Because the Night"), it's not surprising that she was once roomies with an art student named Robert Mapplethorpe. Watch her in concert Friday, 8:30 p.m. on the Jose Cuervo/96 Rock stage.

**RUN DMC** has been at the forefront of hip hop and rap since the early '80s with such hits as "It's Like That," and "Hard Times." Get a taste of the sound that started it all Sunday at 8:00 p.m. on the Coca-Cola V-103 stage.

The **SUGARHILL GANG** is legend. We've danced to such hits by these big boys as "Apache" and "Rapper's Delight." You'll get a chance to see them on the Coca-Cola V-103 stage Saturday at 2:10 p.m.

**KOOL & THE GANG** has had queers dancing their asses off since the '70s with such smash hits as "Get Down On It" and "Celebrate." How many nights can I remember back in the mid-'80s as a little gay boy with a fake ID dancing my heart out underneath a fog machine and blazing disco lights to these guys? You can bet I'll be there when they perform Saturday at 10:15 p.m. on the Ford Focus/Fox 5 stage.

These are just a few of my personal favorites and bands and performers that other queer comrades pointed out. You can get a complete concert list at the Music Midtown Web site.

As for travelling in the area this weekend—a word to the wise—Midtown parking is impossible. Driving is slow going no matter where you're go. I'd say take MARTA to either the Civic Center or North Avenue rail stations.

Take note—almost all performers will be playing a tight 30-minute or hour-long set. If you want to see the entire show—be on time!

**INFO**

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www.musicmidtown.com
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# atlanta eats out

by JONATHAN LERNER

## Tapas Arab style

### Affordable and homey—this Lebanese bistro offers a Middle Eastern flair

A year ago, the Trend Spotter and I were delighted to discover a homey Italian trattoria on Lavista Road called Catalina's. We told a friend and he made a bee-line to the spot—only to discover that it was the establishment's closing night.

Now the unassuming storefront in Oak Grove Center—without any noticeable makeover—has been revived as **MEZZA**. It's equally homey, but now purveys small plates, also called mezza, that hail from the eastern Mediterranean.

A few of these, like hummus and tebbouleh, will be familiar. But most of the 50-some items on the menu will not be. As with the Spanish tapa, these are meant for grazing in the course of a long evening.

None of them alone is enough for a dinner, but two or three should do you. At $4-6 each, and considering how delicious they are, it's a good value.

Since TS, Carter and I were conducting research in the public interest—we ordered nine plates. Then a waitress informed us that we'd missed her favorite, fried cauliflower, and brought us one of those on the house.

Then we had three desserts. This way-

➢ Continued on Page 17

**food file**

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Scene: 🍽🍽🍽

= Stay home and eat cereal
🍽🍽 = Well, if you really must
🍽🍽🍽 = Fine for all but the finnicky
🍽🍽🍽🍽 = Worth more than a 20-minute drive
🍽🍽🍽🍽🍽 = As good as you'll find in this city

# Pleasant grazing at Mezza

➢ Continued from Page 16

big dinner did not quite total $70, before tip.

While deciding what to order we went through two dishes of a delicious sauce meant for dipping bread into made of ground thyme, olive oil and sesame seed.

Fool mudammas was a generous bowl of simmered fava beans—the reddish dried kind, not the pale green fresh ones. They'd been marinated in garlic, olive oil and lemon, and were wonderfully tender though a bit on the bland side.

We used them as a palate cleanser to follow some of the zippier items, like shankleesh, a salad of feta cheese that is crumbled and mixed with finely ground black pepper, then tossed with diced tomato and olive oil.

Fried eggplant was utterly simple: inch-thick disks cooked long and slow until they were creamy in texture—then sauced with tahini.

There isn't a better version of tabbouleh, a salad of parsley, mint and cracked wheat than what Mezza had to offer. There's much more green than grain, and a tangy lemon dressing.

Kibbi, fried balls of ground beef and cracked wheat, have a filling of ground beef, onion and pine nuts. They were a bit dry and bland, but are served with garlicky hummus that helped them out considerably.

Grape leaves stuffed with rice and beef, served with rich plain yogurt, were also good but unexceptional. Makaneh, little beef sausages wrapped in a thin, crackery dough and accompanied by a lemon dipping sauce were different and fun.

The day's special was a stew of eggplant, beef and tomato tossed with crisp vermicelli and served over rice. Fragrant with cardamom or possibly nutmeg—it was filling and delicious, and a sizable portion for $6.50.

The cauliflower was indeed yummy, fried to a dark golden crust and doused with tahini and parsley. For dessert we had a creme bruleé that was delicious in flavor but more dense and cheesecakey than we are used to.

The rich house ice cream, vanilla studded with bits of caramelized almond, reminded us of Heath Bars.

The term baklava here is apparently generic. If you order it, you get to select two from a tray of six or eight different crusty little pastries. Our favorite were the "ladyfingers"—crispy, tender and flavored with caramel.

## *The living and the dead*

TS and I attended a banquet at the Living Foods Institute—a place to learn about an all-organic, all-raw-foods approach to eating and health. The food was generally delicious—though too much was a variation on hummus. If you can stomach the true-believer vibe in this place, you might find a certain culinary enlightenment.

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# atlanta classifieds

**Atlanta Classifieds deadline is Monday at noon**

## Adult Services

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Meet other Atlanta Men by phone 404-351-1112 use free code 9000.

OLDER MEN MEET OTHER MEN! Ads, publication. Self addressed, stamped envelope, in close details. SUNNYSIDE P.O. BOX 17994 Atlanta, GA 30316.

### FOR MEN ONLY!

Meet other Atlanta Men by phone 404-351-1112 use free code 9000.

## AIDS & HIV Services & Education

### FREE TESTING

Think positive, stay negative... HIV Testing & Counseling Services is being offered at the N A E S M. No Needles! Quick! Easy! Accurate! & Confidential! Testing is available from 9:30am until 5:30pm, Wednesday's 9:30am until 7:00pm closed on weekends. No appt. necessary. We're located at 2001 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Ste 602-B for more details, call 404-753-2900.

NATIONAL AIDS EDUCATION & SERVICES for MINORITIES will be facilitating a support group for men who are HIV positive and have AIDS. Every Wednesday 6pm til 7:30pm, 2001 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr, suite 602 404-753-2900 ext 17.

The Atlanta Harm Reduction Center is a grassroots street outreach program whose focus is to stop the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, by providing information, condoms, referrals, and more to the people who are underserved in our communities. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Please donate some of your time and energy. For more info write to: A.H.R.C. 1020 Dekalb Ave NE suite 17, Atlanta, Ga 30307, or call 404-526-9222. AHRAATLANTA@JUNO.COM

### YOGA for AIDS & HIV

Jaya Devi Yoga Studio offers ongoing yoga classes for people living with HIV. Learn a holistic approach to healing the body, mind, heart and spirit. Use yoga and breathwork to strengthen your body, boost your ability to heal, and develop a deeper awareness of your Self. Reduce stress and tension with relaxation and meditation on healing, achieving a wonderful sense of peace and well-being. Jaya Devi Yoga Studio 312C North Highland Ave. Atlanta, GA 30307 404-688-6757

Home But Not Alone- Enjoy reduced rent and comfortable housing. Fast placements, homes now available! No waiting list. Share with a person living with HIV. Call Rita at 770-395-2625.

### HOME BUT NOT ALONE!

HOMES ARE NEEDED with spare rooms for rent sharing with people living w/HIV! References checked and each client is carefully screened. Contact 770-395-2546.

SisterLove, Inc. seeks volunteers to strengthen our fight against HIV/AIDS. Provide office support, do street outreach, join our Speakers Bureau, develop fundraising strategies, work on special events or share your unique skills. SisterLove provides prevention education, outreach and transitional housing for women affected By HIV/AIDS. Call 404-753-7733

## Announcements

BUCKHEAD- HIGHRISE Apartment Building. Rummage sale . Friday & Saturday 8-5pm. Collectible, Household items, etc....Catherdral Towers-2820 Peachtree Road.

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY BARRY & PAT

from Penny and Abraham. "We have loved the past two years".

### CITY DWELLERS

T & K Research Centres is recruiting people of the gay community to participate in a focus group about a new residential community near Grant Park. If you are a city dweller, qualify & choose to participate in this research, you will receive a generous cash gift. For further information call between 9am-5pm at 770-578-9085.

### MEDITATION

Free classes to be taught offering meditation in the style of P. Yoganada and Roy Eugene Davis by a student of 30 years training. In Buckhead. Please call Ken Payne 404-237-6507. NO CHARGE EVER.

### OUTRIGHT LIBERTARIANS

www.OutrightUSA.org National GLBT Libertarian group expanding membership/new chapters across America! Why support a political party that oppresses YOU? Help spread the message of less government,low/no income tax,individual freedom/rights w/personal responsibility! Read,Join,Activate! Related Info: LP.org, Self-gov.org, GLIL.org, Alf.org, Indegayforum.org Info@OutrightUSA.org 678-478-4896 Lv.Message.

### GAY ICE HOCKEY

IGLHA ice hockey team/club forming for gay, lesbian and gay friendly players/supporters. All skill levels welcome. For information visit www.gay-hockeyatlanta.com or call 678-924-0960.

Religious, non-judgemental Marriage/Commitment Ceremony, Baptism, Funerals by a servant of GOD. 770-966-5184.

West Atlanta Pride, providing Social Outlets & Resources for Gays & Lesbians in the area! Web Site www.westatlantapride.com http://www.west-atlantapride.com

### WINE TASTING

Fund raiser needs volunteers. The AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta seeks dedicated volunteers for our 10th annual wine tasting on Friday May 11th. 6pm at Scitrek in Midtown Atlanta. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks including; food prep; bussing; setup; greeting, staffing tables, etc. Please call Marcy Meyers at 404-876-2317 ext 304. Help ARCA work together to find a cure for AIDS.

The Atlanta Long Term Ombudsman Program is recruiting volunteers for the March training class. Only 6 applicants will be selected. If you have a genuine concern for the elderly in nursing homes and personal care homes, Please call 404-371-3806 for more information. Application deadline is March 12, 2001.

### Mature Women Healthy Living

Women 60-80 years young , come join the fun of healthy living. Meet to exercise & share. Get out of the house and get moving. Call between 8 & 10am or leave a message. Avondale Estates Area. 404-296-6693

### WEST GEORGIA GAY & LESBIAN

RESOURCE CENTER- A cyberspace resource center serving the W.Ga. gay & lesbian community. Includes a bulletin board, chat room, personals, and local, regional and national resource links. http://www.truthtree.com/westga

## Auditions

CASTING FOR AN INDEPENDENT SHORT FILM CALLED "MY LIFE AS A CANTELOUPE" ON SATURDAY, MAY 5TH FROM 12:00 - 6:00PM. MANY TYPES NEEDED, MULTI-ETHNIC, AGES 18-80. AUDITIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE RED CHAIR THEATRE, 662 11TH STREET. CALL 404-262-2848 TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR A TEN-MINUTE AUDITION. SCREENTESTS WILL CONSIST OF COLD READINGS. PLEASE BRING PICTURE AND RESUME.

## Cleaning

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The environmentally-safe house cleaning service. Available in Midtown, Ansley Park, Virginia Highlands, Morningside, Druid Hills, Decatur and Grant Park. Karen 404-248-6336.

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Professional Housecleaners/ maids, very dependable & honest. Call for free estimate. 404-235-5920.

## Commitment Ceremonies

### www.wedding-bellz.com

Beautiful Victorian chapel/retreat center, accepting reservations for commitment ceremonies, weddings, renew vows. Overnight accommodations w/breakfast. Singles, couples, small groups. 30 minutes North of Perimeter. Smoke-free adult environment. Call 678-947-5002. e:mail Meshad@aol.com.

## Employment • Full

### Pleasant Peasant MIDTOWN REST.

Now Hiring experienced full & part time servers, bartenders & line cooks. Apply in person Monday-Friday Pleasant Peasant 555 Peachtree Street, 404-874-3223.

### Customer Care Rep.

Your energetic personality & attention to detail will make you a top candidate for this position. Become an integral part of this growing team. We offer a great benefit package & fun work environment. Call By Way of Courier at 404-627-7777 or fax resume to 404-627-2130 for consideration.

### NON-MEDICAL CAREGIVERS

/HOME HELPERS to assist the elderly in their own homes Common shifts needed; 10am-2pm, 7am-7pm, or 7pm-7am. Flexibility required as shifts are determined by clients' needs. Home Instead Senior Care. Call 770-392-1070.

Human rights group seeks development coordinator/director. Perfect for any outgoing person with a passion for ending bias and harassment in school based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Flex hours. 5-10 years exp. in fundraising, marketing, and/or sales w/strong track record preferred. Large network of contacts in the LGBT communities req'd. Major donor solicitation, special events planning, supervision of volunteers and employee, some grant writing and database management. Resume and salary requirements to info@enlight-atlanta.org by 5/12.

### NURSE SUPERVISOR

DeKalb County Board of Health is currently recruiting for a Nurse Supervisor position. Supervision of public health nurses in a clinic setting in the North DeKalb area. One year of nursing supervisory experience required. Public health experience preferred but not required. Salary negotiable. Call Gregory Fenno at 770-452-7130 for application and/or further information. Deadline to apply May 11,2001.

Cooks needed, hiring full and part-time for all shifts. Contact Jean Brown at Denny's, 1935 Piedmont Circle, 404-874-4522 Drug free workplace, EEOC.

### MENTAL HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION & REFERRAL SPECIALIST- Answer multiple phone line and provide mental health I&R to callers. Strong understanding of public and private mental health systems, crisis intervention and consumer advocacy skills are required. Team player who can self-direct work to develop, coordinate and promote I&R system. Effective computer skills in maintaining multiple databases using excel and access. Strong written and verbal skills needed. Bilingual Spanish/English preferred. Consumer & minority applicants encouraged to apply. Fulltime with benefit package. low $20s. Contact Kristine Medea, via fax 404-527-7187.

### ATLANTA COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

Administrative Coordinator (FT), Assistant Development Director (FT). Good benefits, progressive work environment. Interested in joining us in caring for Atlanta's less fortunate? For full job announcements, go to www.acfb.org. Or, contact Kathleen Kelly, Human Resources Manager 404-892-3333 x 229 or kgkelly@acfb.org for application process

### IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

Downtown limousine service needs Limousine/ Sedan Drivers, Reservationist/Dispatch, Office/ Clerical, Sales & Marketing. Russell 404-733-6709.

### Men's Mtn Retreat

In NE Tennessee seeks housekeeping, maintenance, & cook staff. Please respond to P.O Box 383 Duffield VA. 24244 or 1-800-568-2191.

### Rapidly Growing Courier Co.

Great income driving for Gay-owned Courier Company. Full/Part time, flexible hours. Must own reliable transportation. Call Dan: 404-627-8011.

### Collectors

Full time and part time positions available. $10+ an hour. Flexible schedule, 404-685-8803.

RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL CLEANERS, Wanted dependable trustworthy person(s). Experience preferred, references required. Flexible hours/benefits. PT/FT positions. 404-822-9916 or 404-881-8820.

### OUTWRITE BOOKSTORE & COFFEE HOUSE

is now hiring dedicated customer service staff. Full-time & part-time postions still available. Retail &/or customer service experience required. Join our established & still growing team. Benefits available. Apply in person at 991 Piedmont Avenue. 9am-8pm MON-SUN.

### MEDICAL ASSISTANT

With experience or certificate. Needed for busy Midtown medical practice. Fun working environment. People & phlebotomy a must. Call 404-265-4922.

## Employment • Part

Hiring Smiling, Fast-Paced Individuals for Hip Coffee Shop/News Stand. MONDO Baking - Westside. Apply in person-Not During Lunch. 404-603-9995.

### Join the Black Tie Team

Now hiring for P/T servers & bartenders. Upscale clientele, flexible schedules & diverse work locations. A great second job for students, actors, empty nesters, models or flight attendants. Pursue your interests and work when you want to. Reliable transportation required. More information at 770-234-0707, e-mail blacktie@mindspring.com

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### FANTASTIC FURNITURE

Cherry Wood Desk. Great antique Asian style. Excellent condition. $175. *1930's bedroom set from New Orleans, Frame, wardrobe, nightstand, Good condition, needs some refinishing $300. * Amazing 1960's mid-century modern secretary's desk. Fold down writing surface. Lots of drawers & slots. Excellent condition. $250. * Deluxe Cuisinart used 2/3 times. $125, retails at $325. * Two(2) white ceramic columns about 4 feet tall- $20 each. All prices negotiable. Call 678-612-8813, Tony.

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### Master Carpenter

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Responsible, clean Carter Center Intern, 37, seeks MARTA close location, -June 16-Sept.19. Email Wendy: peesnik@aol.com or phone 714-772-2665.

## Internet

### www.GayGifts4u.com

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Call Hinesley Tree Company for full service tree & stump removal. Free estimates, licensed, insured, references. David 770-466-6085. CUSTOMER SERVICE, OUR PRIVILEGE, OUR PROMISE.

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### Marietta Massage

Chiropractic Student offers therapeutic massages. Sports injuries/pain management. In/Out. Next to Life University/Dobbins AFB. Glenn 770-420-5282.

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Full body massage by a mature masculine man with strong and gentle hands to make you feel good from head to toe. By Dwight - Certified Massage Therapist. 404-315-1551. Del4watr@aol.com.

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in classic 1920's bungalow,1BR/1BA heart pine floors, w/d connections, small office, $825 monthly. Shelly, 14 West 404-874-6357 x254

Midtown/Buckhead 1/2 block off Peachtree St. Renovated 1/BR, apt in home w/private entrance. 9'ceiling, hardwood floors, cable, off street parking. $750/mo includes most utilities, 404-873-4286.

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MORNINGSIDE- Cluster townhome, 3BR/2.5BA, family room, fireplace, patio, hardwood floors, quiet area, $1750 monthly, Gary Chad, 14 West 404-874-6357 x207

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS- Bungalow,2BR/1BA, den/office, dining room, hardwood floors, screen porch, $1800 monthly, Gary Chad, 14 West 404-874-6357 x207.

MORNINGSIDE- Tudor-style brick, 3BR/2BA, fireplace, sep dining, breakfast room, side porch, 2/car garage, $1800 monthly, Gary Chad, 14 West 404-874-6357 x207

## DECATUR AREA

Cute updated 3BR/1BA Brick Ranch. New kitchen, all appliances. New systems, fresh paint, tile bath, ceiling fans, carport. $995/mo. 404-259-5338.

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Recently Renovated - 2BR/2BA Cape Cod. All new systems, appliances, fireplace, hardwood floors. $900/month + security deposit. Pets negotiable. 404-622-7109

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3BR/1.5BA, on two lots. Partially fenced in yard. Bonus room in basement, carport, quiet neighborhood. Close/easy access to the East/West Connector, shopping, etc. $925 mo., available 5/1. Call 770-934-9778

# *Real Estate For Sale*

## INMAN PARK

820 DEKALB AVE, #6. corner of DeKalb & Spruce. 1900 sqft, Open LR/DR/Kitchen. 10-20 Ft ceilings, Broad plank hardwood floors. Indust.Arch. features, semi-private patio. Lofted, sleek 2BR/1BA. Secured parking. $235,000. Sallye Parsons 770-849-2636. RE/MAX Metro Atlanta. 404-321-3123.

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## CITY OF AVONDALE

Charming renovated 3BR/2BA home. Master suite w/sitting room w/opens on huge deck, marble floors, large cultured marble shower/bench seat, solid surface countertops in kitchen w/breakfast bar, custom wood shutters throughout, hardwood floors, alarm system & much more. $269,000. Ann 404-299-0566 or 404-863-1717 agents owned. Nationwide group. 3285 Kensington Rd. OPEN HOUSE, MAY 6th & MAY 13th. Sunday 1-5pm. Also FURNITURE FOR SALE.

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Intown Home. 3/bedrooms, great kitchen & bath, hardwood floors, beautiful yard. Two minutes from East Atlanta Village. Five minutes from Decatur Square. Only $169,900. Call today! 404-892-2586, Ann & Lynn, RE/MAX Metro. www.annandlynn.com

## BUCKHEAD

Pine Hills 3BR/3BA incl. inlaw suite 2 kitchen full bsmt, 2 man jacuzzi in master, HUGE family room w/fireplace, deck, 1/2 acre wooded lot, large kitchen, new roof, copper plumb, fresh ext. paint. $389,900 Call Bill Remax Metro Atlanta 404-310-7906 btraylor@mindspring.com

## MEDLOCK PARK

Decatur-761 Medlock Rd.-Adorable 4BR/2BA home in Decatur without the city taxes! Hdwd floors, HUGE fam rm wired for surround, 2 car gar. with attic storage, lg updated kit, tons of closets, bonus rm, fen back yd, deck, LR/DR w/ built ins. REDUCED to $224900. Motivated Seller! Call Bill 404-310-7906 RE/MAX Metro Atlanta.

## Whittier Mills

Beautiful renovation of 100 year old house! 3BR/2BA home features recently refinished hardwood floors, high ceilings, crown moldings, marble master bath with jetted tub and separate shower, granite counter tops, maple cabinets, HUGE deck, big back yard, and rocking chair front porch. $259900 Call Bill RE/MAX Metro Atlanta 404-310-7906.

## NORTHLAKE/ EMBRY HILLS

GREAT BUY!!! $245,000- Spacious, open design, privacy!!! Family room w/vaulted ceiling, side lights, fireplace!!! Large Master bedroom could be office, Rec room, In-law! Hardwood floors, 3 private patios- Great neighbors!! Nedds little TLC & FLUFF. Sherry Adams RE/MAX Greater Atlanta, 404-257-4800.

## Mayfair

2BR/2BA Corner unit, 14th Floor. Hardwood floors, Berber carpet, Crown Molding. $259k. By Owner 404-885-9595

## BUCKHEAD'S #1 HI-RISE CONDOS

***1BRs -$140's,***2BRs-$190's.*** CUSTOM 1BR UNIT! $147,900. Fabulous location, secured property, pool, Fitness Center, garage, clubroom. "Because there's no place like home." Pride Realty, Inc. 404-352-5570. www.PrideRealty.com. CHESHIRE PLACE CONDO-$118,000. "Proudly representing our DECATUR family".

## Cabbagetown

2BR/1.5BA + bonus room, partial hardwoods, Large Living Room & Den. Central Air. Front Porch & screened back porch. Large fenced backyard. Walk-in Attic. Room for remodeling. Great older house with great neighbors. $160,000. No reasonable offer refused Call 404-688-4310 to make appointment.

## BEACH HOMES

Looking for the perfect vacation or retirement home/condo? Consider the beach communities of Seaside, Seagrove and Grayton Beach, Florida. White sand, emerald water, old Florida cottages and great shopping! Call Chris Cash at 1-800-594-5030 or email: cash@30Arealty.com.

# *Real Estate • Mountains*

What are you doing next weekend? How about spending it at your cabin in the mountains. Call John at COLDWELL Banker High Country Realty in Blue Ridge - 800-307-0777. www.cbhighcountry.com http://www.cbhighcountry.com

# *Roommate Situation*

PGWM ISO same to locate and share house in Midtown for June rental. If interested, please call Robert 404-386-9841.

# *Roommates*

2 rooms for rent in private house on MARTA. $425/$475 includes all utilities. W/D, 10 minutes to midtown, Mercer University Drive. Call 770-934-8014.

South Marietta. GWM seeks same to share large 4BR/2BA home. Community tennis/pool. $475/mo. cable included. No drugs/smokes. Ref/sec deposit req'd. 770-693-4800 Kevin. http://hometown.aol.com/mariettahome1/

Norcross- old Historic. Need a quiet, financially stable person to share my home. Security system, private entrance & off-street parking. Private entrance, $500/mo. Call Leigh 770-662-9263.

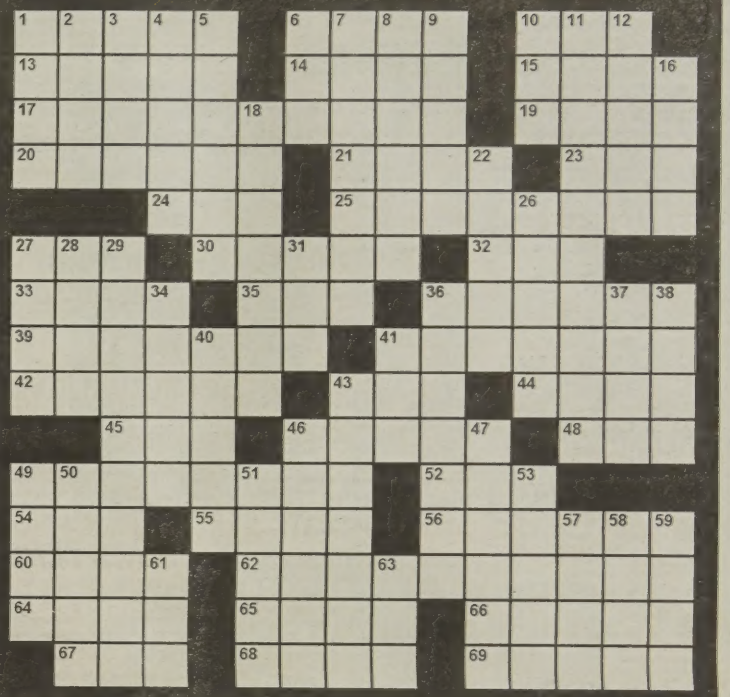
Room available in home in new gated community near Amsterdam & Monroe. Rent is $700/mo. Call 404-872-3555.

Master bedroom, available immediately for female. Great neighborhood north of Tucker. Garage/basement storage. $450/mo + 1/2 utilities. Pets negotiable. 404-234-9019.

Buckhead/Midtown professional GM to share 2BR/1BA house 1 block off Peachtree. Cable, dishwasher, W/D, off street parking, no drugs/indoor smoking. $490/month includes utilities except telephone. 404-873-4286

➢ Continued on Page 20

# Q Puzzle



# Harry Hay

**Across**

1 Queen's dancing skirts
6 ___ buco (veal dish)
10 Matt Cole's milieu
13 Make up
14 Pig food
15 Voyeur's confession
17 Society that Hay helped to found
19 Palindromic suffix
20 Kuehl of the California State Assembly
21 Average scores for Spencer-Devlin
23 Field of Rev. Troy Perry
24 NASA vehicle
25 Hay studied drama here
27 AFL counterpart
30 Old photo color
32 Math subj.
33 "I Shot ___ Warhol"
35 Choreographer Brown
36 One way to express sexuality
39 With 41-Across, Hay helped start this group in 1978
41 See 39-Across
42 Langston Hughes "___ Wings"
43 Elton John's "Act of ___"
44 Singer Gorme
45 __-de-France
46 Bodybuilding-themed porn mag
48 Stud site
49 Native American type admired by Hay
52 "M-m-m!" to Sappho
54 "I Could Have Danced ___ Night"
55 Spelling of "Trick"
56 Vidal essay collection
60 Historic Stonewall event
62 Hay helped start the first gay pride march in this city
64 Poet Kitty
65 Invitation to a top?
66 Cravings
67 Summer for Rimbaud
68 Coral construction
69 "Faboo!"

**Down**

1 Scots cover their heads with them
2 D-Day beachhead
3 Big bag
4 Prince's "___ U're In My Arms Again"
5 Actor Franklyn
6 ___ Kosh B'Gosh (kids' clothing line)
7 Takes advantage of 11-Down
8 Liberace piece, perhaps
9 Type of queen
10 Use the tongue without giving pleasure
11 Lube brand
12 Bessie Smith's "Blue ___ Blues"
16 Poet Angelina ___ Grimke
18 Mapplethorpe's tools
22 Kind of drum
26 Candle in the wind, perhaps
27 The Indigo Girls "___ Mia"
28 "I knew ___ instant..."
29 Ann Bannon title
31 Jim Kolbe, e.g.
34 Triangular road sign
36 He responds to "Stroke!..."
37 Future queen of "Star Wars"
38 River of Belgium
40 Spike for David Kopay
41 Wide companion
43 "I'm screwed!" in Byron's day
46 Edward II's seat
47 Get a better piece
49 Homer-phobic Simpson?
50 Journalist Harris
51 Pink, for one
53 Hite of sexuality
57 "Beginning With O" author Broumas
58 Event for George Frenn
59 Bygone pump name
61 Practice B&D, e.g.
63 U.S. soldiers, in 1917

Answers on Page 21

# atlanta classifieds

➢ Continued from Page 19

Inman Park - GM seeks neat, quiet, professional M/F to share large 2BR house, 10' ceilings, fireplace, hardwood floors, W/D, 1blk to MARTA train, 5mins to downtown, walk to Lil 5 pts. $500 + 1/2 utilities + deposit. 404-524-3030.

Decatur-GWM, N/S, to share furnished, modern house in quiet neighborhood. 2BR, 1.5BA, W/D. $550/mo includes utilities, plus security deposit. Must like pets. 404-377-3917.

Hot East Atlanta-GWM to share 3BR/2BA house w/fireplace. Off street driveway, fenced backyard. $500/mo utilities included + deposit. 404-627-7727.

## The Gay Roommate Service

Call Bill 404-264-1536

BUCKHEAD-GAM seeks GM/F roommate. 2BR/2BA apt. $532, 1/2 utils., dep. Available from June 15th. No pets/smoking. 404-760-1663. RoommateAtlanta@AOL.com

## MORNINGSIDE CHASE

2/GWM's seek same to share 3BR townhouse. W/D, workout room, fabulous large deck/patio. ***MUST BE SOBER*** -alcohol & drug free home- courteous smoker ok. No pets - 2 dogs/cat provided. $550/mo +long distance -utilities included- $250 deposit. 404-892-8189.

Prof GWF seeks Prof GWF/GWM to share 3BR/2BA, W/D, frplce, security system, deck, home in Norcross OR rent out whole house. Access to 85/285 and quiet cul-de-sac. Roommate: $450 + 1/2 utilities OR $800 + utilities for whole house. $350 deposit. Available May 1st. Love pets. Ref required. NS/ND. Leave message: 678-468-6928.

LENOX/N.BUCKHEAD- GWM seeks responsible same to share beautifully renovated 3BR/2BA home. Carport, frpl, Gourmet kitchen. No drugs/smoking. Must like cats. $550/mo includes utilities + deposit.. 404-233-4255.

Decatur/Avondale area, close to Emory. M seeks M/F to share 3BR/2.5BA townhouse $450 + 1/2 utilities. call 678-428-4866

I-85/SHALLOWFORD- Couple seeks male to share 4BR/2.5BA 2200sqft condo. Private den/BR/BA. access to pool, W/D. $650 includes utilities/cable. 404-728-0204. Available now!

## MIDTOWN

GWM seeks same to share 2BR/2BA spacious condo. Modern Gated Community with on-site gym, pool. 2nd Floor Unit has city views, walk-in closet, fireplace, balcony. $690/month includes utilities except. NONSMOKER, NO DRUG USERS! Must be employed, Neat and pay bills on time. 404-524-4897.

## Decatur/Lake Claire

Seeking 3rd roomie for large beautiful house in quiet pretty neighborhood. Large bedrooms, hardwood floors, big kitchen, huge front porch, W/D, sunroom. Cozy relaxed energy. $450/mo + 1/3rd utilities & $200/deposit. Available June 1st. Deposit will hold. 404-378-4424, or 404-378-6665.

GWM looking for same to share 2BR/1.5BA townhome. Prominent Midtown location. Fully furnished including your bedroom. $575/month, $300 deposit. Includes everything. 404-873-2065.

BROOKHAVEN- GWM seeks GM to share 2/Bedroom apt. Pool, off-street parking, W/D. No pets/smoking/DRUGS. 404-816-0857 Leave message.

## SUBLET/ ROOMMATE

Cool laid back guy looking for the same to share my condo while I am traveling. 1900's Charming European Building w/amazing porch overlooking English garden. Hardwoods, fireplace, full appliances. $800 Dave 404-815-8463.

HOWELL STATION- West of GA Tech. Quiet non-smoker 4 room w/bath. $550-/mo + $300 deposit. Utilities included except phone. Call Dave 770-596-4003.

CHESHIRE BRIDGE/LENOX, GWM seeks same to share 3BR/2BA Apt. $300/mo + 1/3 utilities & Deposit.NO pets/no smokers. 404-327-7756

East Atlanta Village Area-GM couple seek single FEMALE roommate over 28yo only to rent 1 room w/full bath in private home on MARTA $475/mo+$250/dep. Utilities included-separate phone req=need ref-No/pets/smoke/drugs. 678-643-6369

NORTHLAKE/EMORY- GWM looking for roomMate for LARGE condo $450mo. TV, pool, parking, non-smoker,prefer no pets. close to everything 404-636-8307 atlguymark@aol.com utilities included.

DECATUR-1-2 professional, non-smoker, for gorgeous 4BR house in downtown Decatur. Hardwood floors, washer/dryer, garage, deck, patio, goldfish pond, screened in room. 1/4 utilities. $500/mo. Call 404-371-1857.

MORNINGSIDE/Va.Highlands-GWM seeks responsible roommmate to share a large newly renovated home. House features a pool, hot tub, and home theater. $600/mo includes utilities & maid service 404-873-1000.

College Park- PGWM seeks GM to share 3BR house. $350/mo. 1/2 utilities. 404-234-3446.

CHESHIRE BRIDGE/LENOX AREA GWM seeks same to share 3BR/2BA. $500.00 includes utilities plus W/D, pool, cable. $250.00 deposit 678-596-7461

Midtown- Seek responsible gay male to share large 4BR/3BA house. $450/mo + utilities. Chad 404-401-1710.

## *Services*

## MOVING?

Executive Moving Service! We do homes, apartments & offices. Dependable, professional movers. 770-736-6093. "we take the STRESS out of moving".

## *Travel*

## FT.LAUDERDALE BEACH

Worhtington Guesthouse- One of Ft. Lauderdale's more popular exclusivly all male resort at the beach. Sunny clothing optional courtyard with heated pool. All rooms newly renovated and just steps to the beach. Resevations call 800-445-7036, website www.worthguesthouse.com

## BLACK BEAR CABIN RENTALS

"a great place to hibernate". Blue Ridge Georgia 1-888-90CABIN(2-2246). www.blackbearcabin-rentals.com.

## CAMPING FOR WOMEN

CAMPING for WOMEN - riverfront sites. Inexpensive cabins - also Honeymoon B&B with Jacuzzi One hour from Atlanta - 888-808-5021

www.SwiftwatersWomanspace.com

## Memorial Day Condo

Navarre Beach 2BR, sleeps 6, TV/VCR/DVD, Gulf view, pool and hot tub. $1150/wk., available year-round. 404-386-0225 or marty@hyper-text.com

## Alpine Helen

Romantic MOUNTAIN LAUREL CHALET, jacuzzi, fireplace, satellite TV, 3 bedrooms, sleeping loft, 2 bathrooms. Seasonal specials. Free brochure. Call 404-325-9763 or visit our website www.white-county.com/chalet.

Abbett Inn is Atlanta's most authentic Gay owned Victorian Bed & Breakfast and Atlanta's best travel value. For reservations, call 404-767-3708. www.abbettinn.com.

## N.GA. Cabin Rentals

In the N.GA. Mountains. Creek/River Front & Mtn View Cabins Available. Hot tubs, fireplaces & more.... Many outdoor activities. 1-866-4CABINS. or www.southerncomfortcabinrentals.com

## PROVINCETOWN

Rent Sunday thru Sunday, new construction, 3BR/2.5BA. Spectacular Views, near center of Town. Chefs kitchen, air conditioned. 404-892-4310.

## Metro Atlanta Suite

Prime Buckhead location, Awesome Accomadations, Resonable Rates, Short or Long Term. 404-352-5570, www.PrideRealty.com.

## GA Mountain Getaway

Cozy cabin by Lake Burton: huge fireplace for winter, deck/dock for summer. Hiking, swimming, antiquing, touring...or just loafing! 404-521-0630

## *Travel/ Vacation Rentals*

## IML CHICAGO

Room to share at Hilton Palmer Host Hotel for IML. 2/beds 2/baths, $78 per-night, reserved Fri-Tue morning. Memorial Day Weekend. Non-Smoker, No drugs. Mike 678-358-3263.

## SEAGROVE BEACH, FL

Brand new, stylish home - "Fish Lips" 3BR/3BA plus loft, sleeps 8, short walk to beach, community pool/tennis, less than one mile from Seaside . Summer rate $1800/wk. Early Booking Bonus incl beach chairs/umbrella rental. 404-327-9076

## *Volunteers*

Help Us Serve Your Community!! The Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Center is seeking a volunteer to assist in coordinating our volunteer programs. The volunteer will assist the Executive Director in recruiting and maintaining correspondence with volunteers for our ongoing programs and special events. Please call us at 404-523-7500 or cw@aglc.org.

## VOLUNTEER OFFICE ASSISTANT

Help Us Serve Your Community!! The Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Center is seeking a volunteer office assistant. The office assistant will perform receptionist and other light clerical duties during daytime office hours (at least 10 hours per week). Interested? Please call us at 404-523-7500 or cw@aglc.org.

Help Us Serve Your Community!! The Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Center seeks a volunteer development expert. Do you have a background in fund raising, including grant writing securing corporate sponsorship and other development strategies? Would you like to donate your talent to a worthwhile cause? We have a place for you. Please call us at 404,523-7500 or cw@aglc.org

## Designated Driver

Volunteers work in teams of two taking impaired individuals AND their cars home from sponsoring Metro Atlanta locations. Volunteers needed seven days a week from 9:30pm to closing. Volunteers must be 18 or older and have a valid driver's license. Designated Drivers Association of Atlanta, Inc. 404-888-0887. HAVE FUN! SAVE LIVES!.

## Volunteer Facilitator

Needed for HIV Support Group. Lead AIDS Survival Projects's Monday Night Positively Living Support Group. Each Monday 7:30-9:30pm. The group is open to Men & Women who are living w/HIV. Prefer that the facilitator has training in social work, psychology, or sociology. Group exp. preferred. Any interested persons should call Terri Wilder at 404-874-7926 ext 13.

NATIONAL AIDS EDUCATION & SERVICES for MINORITIES is seeking volunteers for the following areas: special events, bar & club outreach, clerical support, house monitor, food pantry, clothing closet, fund raising, yard maintenance, group facilitation, and education. Volunteer training available monthly. Please contact Jala at 404-753-2900, ext 17.

The south metro youth council for the American Red Cross is seeking volunteers/youth council members for varied activities. We have a calender of events for the 2001 term. Please call 770-506-4233 for info.

## Help a child

AID Atlanta is looking for responsible adults who have one morning a week available to volunteer in the playroom at the Grady Ponce de Leon Center. You would be caring for HIV-infected and affected children 10 years and younger. For more information please call Bob Ford 404-870-7741.

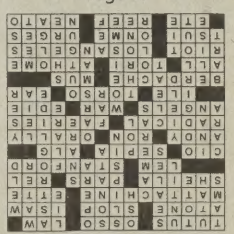
The Ga. Council on Child Abuse is a statewide, non-profit, child abuse prevention agency. Volunteers are needed in a variety of opportunities. For more information on volunteering please call 404-870-6573.

## *Yard Sale*

"BUCKHEAD- HIGHRISE Apartment Building. Rummage sale . Friday & Saturday 8-5pm. Collectible, Household Items, etc....Catherdral Towers-2820 Peachtree Road.

## Q Puzzle solution

Answers to puzzle on Page 19



southern VOICE

**Classified Order Form**
Fax: 404-876-2709
Phone: 404-876-1819 ext. 15

**TO PLACE AN AD: IN PERSON:** Bring completed order form with payment to *Southern Voice* (M-F, 9-6 pm) 1075 Zonolite Rd., Ste. 1-D, Atlanta. **BY MAIL:** Mail completed order form with payment to *Southern Voice* Classifieds, 1075 Zonolite Rd, Ste. 1D, Atlanta, GA 30306. **BY PHONE:** Call in with completed order form to 404-876-1819 ext. 15. **BY FAX:** Fax completed order form and credit card information to Classifieds 404-876-2709. **BY E-MAIL:** classifieds@sovo.com. **AD POLICY:** *Southern Voice* reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting *Southern Voice* standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: *Southern Voice* is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

**DEADLINE FOR AD SUBMISSION • ATLANTA: MONDAY AT 12 NOON**

## 1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY

**FREE:** Call for guidelines
___ HIV Services & Education
___ Volunteers

**INDIVIDUAL RATE $7:**
___ Announcements
___ Auditions
___ Employment–Seeking
___ Pets–Free or Lost & Found
___ Roommates

**BUSINESS RATE $15:**
___ Autos
___ Business
___ Employment–Full Time
___ Employment–Part Time
___ Finance
___ Health
___ Legal
___ Massage Therapy
___ Merchandise
___ Pets–For Sale, Training
___ Publications
___ Real Estate–For Rent
___ Real Estate–For Sale
___ Travel

*Call 404-876-1819 ext. 15 (ATL) or 504-821-9041 (NEW ORL) for other categories*

## 2 WRITE YOUR AD

Please print clearly

**CATEGORY:**_____ **# OF ISSUES:** _____

Giant Headline ($5/week)–Not to exceed 14 characters and spaces

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

**TEXT:** _____

## 3 TOTAL YOUR COST

**INDIVIDUAL RATE ADS**
Up to 20 words for $7.00 per week. Additional words at 50¢ each per week.

Up to 20 words: 7.00
Additional words _____ x 50¢: _____
Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)
**Subtotal:** _____ x _____ # of issues
**Total:** $_____

**BUSINESS RATE ADS**
Up to 20 words for $15.00 per week. Additional words at $1.00 each per week.

Up to 20 words: 15.00
Additional words _____ x $1.00: _____
Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)
**Subtotal:** _____ x _____ # of issues
**Total:** $_____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City _____ State_____ Zip_____
Phone _____
Check Enclosed _____ Charge to my ❑ AMEX ❑ MC ❑ VISA
Card #_____ Exp.____/____

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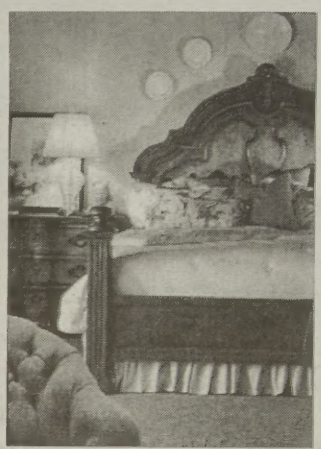

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John Willis Homes
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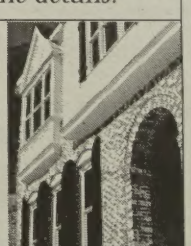
*With only 54 residences available in this extraordinary neighborhood, we invite you to visit us today. For more information:*
404-365-9950 or 770-527-0211

Directions: North on Peachtree Road to Brookhaven. Right on Dresden Drive. Continue 1/2 mile through three traffic lights. Village Park is on the right.



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CITY HOMES

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## Men Seeking Men

**SLIM AND SMOOTH**
GWM, 35, good-looking, versatile, very smooth, well-made, seeks similar, clean, healthy, good attitude, non-bar-crawler. No one-nighters. Atlanta ☎4486

**HIV+ BLACK MALE**
SBM, 45, 198lbs, Native American descent, healthy HIV+, seeks healthy HIV+ SB/HM, for possible monogamous relationship. Barnesville ☎3294

**ROMANCE AND LOVE**
GHM, 49, 5'11", 183lbs, seeks honest, romantic, sincere guy, for possible LTR. Age/race unimportant. North Atlanta ☎4171

**SEEKING QUALITY GUY**
GWM, 36, 6'2", 190lbs, brown/brown, seeks similar GWM, 25-45, who enjoys movies, outdoors, sports, for friendship, possible relationship. Sugar Hill ☎4260

**ALONE AT THE LAKE**
WM bear, 48, 5'11", 280lbs, brown/blue, bearded, romanticist, loves boating, camping, sunbathing. Seeking cuddly WM bear with similar interests. Buford ☎4175

**PLATONIC**
SM, 44, handsome, intelligent, spiritual, emotional, seeks friendly, sincere, honest gentleman for platonic relationship. Atlanta ☎4471

**LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE**
Laid-back, romantic SBM, 270lbs, enjoys sports, movies. Seeking SM, 28-41, for best friends, possibly more. Atlanta ☎4474

**BLUE-COLLARED**
Nice-looking, witty GWM, 41, 5'10", 165lbs, shaved head, in good shape, enjoys music, dining, nature. Seeking GWM, 32-52, hairy/facial hair a plus, for companionship. Atlanta ☎3307

**GAINESVILLE**
SWM, 30, 6', 170lbs, blond/blue, enjoys photography, videos, outdoors, country music. Seeking male under 30, for dating. Mount Airy ☎1880

**LET'S GO OUT!**
Athletic GWM, 38, 6'1", N/S, in shape, brown/blue, HIV+, very healthy, with plenty of time on my hands, enjoys outdoors. Seeking friend for daytime activities. Atlanta ☎3930

**COMPANIONSHIP**
Honest, sincere GBM, 33, HIV+, seeks secure GBM for friendship first, possible committed, long-term relationship. Atlanta ☎4042

**CASUAL DATING AND MORE**
GWM, 36, 5'10", 170lbs, average build, HIV+, seeks similar GM, for casual dating, friendship, possible LTR. Serious replies only. Douglasville ☎4411

**INTO MY LIFE**
Slim, cute BiWM, 5'9", 135lbs, blond/blue, seeks interesting, sexy guy, similar body size, for tender love and care, possible LTR. Alapharetta ☎4322

**LOOKING FOR LTR**
Good-looking BM, 37, 5'9", 158lbs, HIV+, healthy, seeks stable male for LTR. Atlanta ☎4296

**ALL ALONE**
Good-looking, fun-loving GBM, 28, 5'10", 195lbs, enjoys dining out, sports. Seeking honest, sincere GBM, for dating, possible LTR. Athens ☎4261

**SEEKING QUALITY**
WPM, 26, 5'8", 180lbs, brown/green, enjoys cooking, movies, travel, and the outdoors. Seeking stable, masculine WPM, 24-34, for discreet friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎4183

**NOW INTERVIEWING...**
tall, handsome, affectionate, witty, hirsute GWM, 30s-40s, N/S, for possible LTR. Interviews conducted by attractive, honest, romantic GWM, 37. Atlanta ☎3515

**COUNTRY BOY**
GWM, 36, 5'6", 160lbs, N/S, social drinker, clean-shaven, seeks masculine, down-to-earth SM for friendship first, possible LTR. ☎3961

**SEEKING A GREAT GUY**
GWM, 30, 5'7", 160lbs, seeks professional male who likes travel and is not into the bar scene. Honesty a must. Looking for next-door neighbor type. Atlanta ☎4169

**NEW TO AREA**
Light-skinned SM, 28, 6'1", 160lbs, artist, designer, seeks quality friend, 22 to 50. Atlanta ☎4346

**TAKE A CHANCE**
Romantic, honest GWM, 46, 5'6", brown/brown, enjoys bowling, movies, theater, dining out, reading. Seeking GWM, up to 50, average-husky build, for monogamous LTR. Auburn ☎4216

**SEEK LOVE, HAPPINESS**
Affectionate, caring BM, 49, 5'9", 201lbs, seeks attractive, caring, sensitive SM, 55+, for cuddling and companionship. Normal ☎3978

**KINDRED SPIRIT**
Attractive, masculine, successful, secure, romantic GWM, 40-something, top, seeks attractive, younger relationship GWM, bottom, to adore. Serious only. Atlanta ☎4093

**SEEKING COMPANION**
Attractive, masculine, financially secure GBM, 38, 5'11", 195lbs, seeks GBM for friendship and companionship. All calls will be answered. Lithonia ☎3376

## Been Glanced?

**DUNWOODY COSTCO**
March 11, Costco Gas, you wore white "Star Trek" t-shirt, in white Mitsubishi. We exchanged glances. Would love to talk. ☎4297

**FORMER SKATER**
You: blond, 40 year-old, former skater, performed in Indianapolis. Me: David, cap, 52 year-old, glasses. We met at Tripps in March. Please call. Atlanta ☎4478

**EAST ATLANTA, 2/16**
Friday afternoon. Me: 6'1", clean shaven, wearing gray shirt, black pants. We smiled at each other. Walked to pay phone, turned around, you were gone. Atlanta ☎4170

**4T SINGLES PARTY**
2/16. You: Hard Rock t-shirt, we talked about theater, music, drums, flea markets. Dinner? Please call. Tucker ☎4248

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18TH**
Dennis, you were at booth with laptop. We sat next to you. I asked about your laptop. You said, "Have a good evening, gentlemen". Let's discuss possibilities. Atlanta ☎4477

**HERETIC, SAT FEB 24TH**
Stan, you had a killer smile, we danced and talked most of the night, but lost each other in the crowd. Call me, Mike. Atlanta ☎4226

**A DEEPER LOVE**
GBM, 35, HIV+, N/S, N/Drugs, social drinker, seeks similar, down-to-earth, sincere GBM for friendship first. You don't need to play games to get my attention. Clarkston ☎4318

**GAY GAMER**
Physically fit divorced GWM, 37, 6', 195lbs, HIV negative, seeks GM, interested in sci-fi, fantasy, role-playing games, working out. ☎4215

**HARD-WORKING, CARING**
BPM, HIV+, 5'10", 178lbs, 40s, enjoys exercise, dining in and out, cozy evenings, and more. Seeking similar, sincere male, any race, possible LTR. Dunwoody area. ☎4019

**SEEKING THE ONLY ONE**
Attractive, honest, sincere, loving, kind GBM, 38, 5'11", 175lbs, in excellent shape, seeks GB/WM, 20-40, for friendship first, possible LTR. Must be honest, kind, sincere, faithful, monogamous, attractive. Tricity/Kingsport area. ☎4479

**HANDSOME HISPANIC**
Handsome, athletic, caring, romantic SHPM, 28, 6', 175lbs, black/brown, seeks attractive SW/HPM, 35-50, in good shape, for dating and more. Atlanta ☎2855

**REAL QUALITY...**
no attitude! Very handsome, athletic, affectionate man, 33, 5'10", 165lbs, brown/blue, nice body, seeks same, 25-45, who's into travel, gym, movies, good food, kisses. Roswell ☎4167

**SAVANNAH BEACH...**
seeks long-term. GWM, 40, 6'2", 220lbs, brown/blue, lives at Tybee Beach. Seeking GWM, 30-65, who enjoys the beach life. For friendship, possible LTR. Tybee Island ☎3852

**LOVABLE GUY**
GBM, 42, 5'11", 140lbs, black/brown, enjoys dining out, reading, writing, swimming, biking, yoga. Seeking GM, with similar interests, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎4445

**RUGGED AND SENSITIVE**
Creative, artistic SM, 46, 5'9", dark/hazel, medium build, enjoys working out, theater, plays, movies, music. Seeking outgoing, stable, fun male, social drinker. Atlanta ☎3975

**GOOD-LOOKING/GENUINE**
Masculine, fun-loving, non-scene GWM, 42, 6'1", 195lbs, brown/green, not into gay life, seeks romance/love with similar, good-looking, masculine, relationship-oriented nice guy, with good personality. Atlanta ☎4137

**IT ALL STARTS HERE**
Attractive SBM, 43, seeks honest, secure, outgoing SM with great sense of humor for friendship that may develop into something more. Race/age unimportant. Gainesville ☎3908

**FUN GUY**
Light-hearted, sensitive WPM, 6'2", 185lbs, brown/brown, loves reading, movies. Seeking upbeat, down-to-earth, spiritual guy for casual dating. Atlanta ☎3538

**SEEKING JUST ONE**
GBM, 31, 5'7", 151lbs, HIV+, wants to get to know a down-to-earth, honest male for friendship, possibly more. Atlanta ☎3996

**SEEKING MALE...**
37-39, slim to skinny, dark-haired. Me: educated, 50s, 6'3", brown/brown, enjoys reading, romantic movies, bowling. Friendship first, possible LTR. Macon ☎3933

**MR. MONOGAMY HERE**
Honest, sincere, cute GWM, 39, 5'7", 145lbs, dark brown/hazel, with sense of humor, enjoys travel, music, reading, running, cooking. Seeking male, D/D-free, social drinker. Decatur ☎3824

**PLEASE CALL**
Outgoing, good-looking SBM, 19, 5'9", 140lbs, loves to have fun. Seeking relationship with SBM, same interests. Please call. Macon ☎4138

**OLDER FOR YOUNGER...**
in Birmingham/Atlanta. GWM, 42, 155lbs, fit, educated, seeks younger WM, 25-35, H/W proportionate, fit, stable, and honest, for friendship/dating, or possible committed LTR. Birmingham ☎4288

**LOOKING FOR LOVE**
Athletic GM, 19, 6'1", dark/hazel, seeks GM for friendship first, possible LTR. Macon ☎4265

**DO ME RIGHT**
Down-to-earth, clean-shaven GWM, 48, 5'10", 160lbs, blond/blue, with old-fashioned values, seeks quality GWM for LTR. N/Drugs, N/S. ☎3749

**EAST ALABAMA**
GBPM, 58, 160lbs, enjoys movies, dining, jazz/classical music. Seeking fun-loving GM for friendship first, possible committed LTR. Opelika ☎4227

**FUNNY, ATTRACTIVE...**
fit male, 6', 175lbs, blond/green, enjoys travel, working out, and his two dogs. Seeking sincere, honest, funny guy. Atlanta ☎4349

**SEEKS SPECIAL MAN**
Outgoing, easygoing SWM, 45, enjoys dining out, going to movies, and going to clubs. Seeking SM, 30-50, for friendship first. Swainsboro ☎4250

**WANNA WRESTLE?**
WM, 6', 190lbs, 49, gray/blue, in very good shape, works out, seeks others interested in wrestling/maybe more. Atlanta ☎3970

**LET'S HAVE FUN**
Laid-back BiWM, 6'4", 185lbs, HIV+, enjoys sports, music, quiet times. Seeking easygoing SM for friendship, possibly more. Alpharetta ☎4321

**GRAB THE BRASS RING**
Fun-loving, straight-forward, open, handsome, honest WPM, 38, 165lbs, 5'10", good shape, brown/brown, seeks kind, nice-looking, honest person who is not afraid to take chances. Atlanta ☎4335

**SOMEONE JUST LIKE ME**
SWM, 46, 5'9", 155lbs, brown/blue, moustache, easy to get along with, seeks male, 35-55, for friendship/relationship. Please be sincere, honest, humorous. All replies answered. Mountain City ☎3369

**SEEKING RELATIONSHIP**
Sincere, honest, quiet, easygoing GWM, 56, 145lbs, brown/brown, mustache, N/S, N/D, enjoys movies, quiet evenings. Seeking male, 40-60, for relationship. Stone Mountain ☎4088

**HOT N' WILD**
Laid-back, rambunctious SM, 18, 5'9", 165lbs, brown/hazel, enjoys tv, romantic dinners, quiet evenings at home, music. Seeking tall, muscular male. ☎4281

**SEEKING PASSION**
SWM, 51, 6'3", 270lbs, D/D-free, total bottom, likes animals. Seeking passionate, romantic SM, top, for dating. Black male preferred. Atlanta ☎3680

**DISCRETION ASSURED**
Female type GWM, 52, 5'7", 175lbs, brown/green, seeks masculine SH/WM, 55+, for daytime dating, must be D/D-free, and N/S. Pensacola ☎3967

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With your credit card, call
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**NE GEORGIA AREA**
BiWM, 44, 6', 190lbs, N/S, hairy, dark brown/blue, enjoys hiking, nature, camping, fishing. Seeking average, versatile WM, 28-48, smooth. Canon ☎4243

**THE RIGHT STUFF**
Passionate, versatile, honest GWM, 41, 5'10", 155lbs, brown/green, HIV-, enjoys music, movies, and travel. Seeking male, 35-45 with similar interests, for casual dating, maybe more. Atlanta ☎4214

**SHORT 'N' LOVELY**
GBM, 38, 5'3", 130lbs, dark complexion, seeks down-to-earth guy. Let's get to know one another. Atlanta ☎4174

**BM SEEKS WHITE CUB**
B/HM, 41, 5'8", 185lbs, seeks masculine, hairy SWM, 30-45, for friendship, possibly more. Serious replies only. Decatur ☎4140

**SEEKING RELATIONSHIP**
Male, 5'4", 110lbs, brown/blue, tan skin, athletic body, enjoys volleyball, sun worship, and clubbing. Seeking male for relationship. Nicholson ☎4370

## Women Seeking Women

**BUTCH SEEKS FEMME**
SWF, 5'5", 180lbs, blonde/blue, enjoys sports, animals, movies. Seeking honest, trustworthy SF with goals in life for committed relationship. Douglasville ☎4461

**TAKE A CHANCE**
Cute, stable, healthy, funny, independent, easygoing SWF, 35, seeks SF, 30-40, N/S, who loves to laugh and enjoys a wide variety of indoor and outdoor activities. For possible LTR. Atlanta ☎4416

**MISS RIGHT**
Hardworking SBF, brown-skinned with braids, enjoys basketball, romantic dinners. Seeking BF, 35-40, for LTR. South Carolina Resident. Beaufort ☎4480

**DON'T SWEAT SMALL...**
stuff. New Orleans, attractive, humorous, compassionate GBP mom, medium height/weight, loves movies, hugs, candlelight evenings, bicycling. Seeking similar BF, 35+, N/S, friendship first. New Orleans ☎3514

**LOOKING FOR FRIEND**
GBF, 40, 5'5", 140lbs, enjoys tennis, working out, movies, concerts. Seeking outgoing SF, 33-45, for friendship, possible LTR. Smyrna ☎4472

**FRIENDSHIP 1ST/MAYBE MORE**
GWF, 41, 5'7", 125lbs, N/S, N/Drugs, seeks outgoing GWF, 30+, N/S, N/Drugs, who's real and can be herself, enjoys walks, outdoors, nature, mountains, stimulating conversation, dining out, weekend getaways. Lawrenceville ☎4476

**FEMININE**
Attractive, petite, artistic, athletic, stable, free-spirited GWF, 26, seeks feminine, confident, attractive, affectionate, goal-oriented GF, 23-36, N/S. Atlanta ☎4211

**LOVING, DOWN-TO-EARTH**
Attractive BF, 42, light complexion, likes dining out, travel, reading, working out. Seeking easy-going, intelligent, articulate, emotionally/financially secure SF for possible LTR. Stone Mountain ☎4469

**NEW BEGINNING**
GWF, 45, enjoys fishing, bowling, playing pool, casinos. Seeking GF, with similar interests, for friendship, possible LTR. Monticello ☎4446

**MS. MONOGAMOUS**
Light-complected mother of one son, 27, 5'3", brown/brown, enjoys outdoors, country. Seeking SF for LTR. Atlanta ☎4249

**DOWN-TO-EARTH LIBRA**
Full-figured GBF, 35, mother of two, enjoys movies, tennis, bowling, reading, music, travel. Seeking friendship first, possible LTR. D/D-free. Atlanta ☎4275

**SEEKING MY BUTCH**
GW femme, 45, seeks my true butch, 5'6"+, who is interested in LTR. I know you're out there! Norcross ☎4262

**JUST DO IT**
Attractive, healthy, spiritual GWF, seeks similar friend for spending time together and maybe more. Atlanta ☎3885

**HARD-WORKING**
GBF, 45, spiritual, enjoys movies, plays, staying at home. Seeking very feminine woman, 35-50, to do fun things with. Brunswick ☎4173

**LOVING FEMME...**
seeks loving stud. GF, 50, grown children, enjoys reading, cooking, beach, theater, nature. Acworth ☎4278

**SPECIAL FRIEND**
Attractive GWPF, 40s, enjoys candlelight dinner, travel, beaches, mountains, outdoors. Seeks feminine GWF. Lawrenceville. Lawrenceville ☎3895

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**ONE OF A KIND**
Romantic, loving GWF, 5'7", brown/blue, enjoys fishing, outdoor/indoor activities, variety of interests. Seeking GWF, 35-65, for friendship first, possible LTR, to spend holidays with. Manchester ☎3572

**SEEKING COMMITMENT**
SF, 25, 5'7", 150lbs, jet black/brown, enjoys shopping, tennis, basketball. Seeking female, who knows what she wants out of life, for committed relationship. College Park ☎3982

**STRONG BLACK STUD**
Versatile GBF, 31, 5'5", employed, enjoys clubs and country music. Seeking beautiful GF, 25-45, for casual relationship leading to LTR. Houston ☎3799

**WHERE ARE YOU?**
GWF, 44, 6', brown/green, enjoys dining out, rides in the country, special quiet times, cuddling, movies. Seeking soft butch, 35-45, with similar interests, LTR. Smyrna ☎4369

**FAIRY TALE ROMANCE**
Intelligent, honest, easygoing GF, 20, 5'8", 150lbs, short brown/green, loves reading, hockey, television. Seeking playful, thoughtful, loyal, loving, romantic GF, 25-35, for serious relationship. Lawrenceville ☎4146

**NEW TO ATLANTA**
Outgoing, attractive GPF, 37, medium build, brown/hazel, enjoys walks in the park, sports, movies, travel, stimulating conversation. Seeking GF, with similar interests, for friendship/possible LTR. Atlanta ☎4077

**HERE WE GO AGAIN**
Petite, athletic-built WPF, 41, enjoys golf, movies, music, beach, mountains, reading. Seeking honest female, 35-50, good sense of humor, for friendship first, possible LTR. Waleska ☎3036

**BRAINS AND LOOKS**
If you are seeking a cross between Xena and Scarlett, look no further. GWPF, top. Interests are fine dining, music, conversation, dancing. N/S. Lake Lanier. Gainesville ☎4014

**INTERESTING & INTERESTED**
Dynamic, attractive woman, 45, 5'11", 160lbs, blonde/blue, fit, enjoys nature, art, fitness, music, dancing. Seeks fellow woman traveler on path. Communication, humor/values most important. I am in love with life. Atlanta ☎4368

**WOMAN OF MY DREAMS**
Health-conscious, creative, intelligent, very attractive Puerto Rican GF, 5'6", 140lbs, soft butch, cat lover, enjoys dancing, reading, concerts. Seeking attractive GW/HF, 45-60, for LTR. Kenner ☎3622

**NEW BEGINNINGS**
Mature, single, inexperienced, healthy female, who's versatile, intelligent, and outgoing, enjoys music, dancing, sports, seeks butch female, 45+, discreet, D/D-free, for friendship and possibly more. Riverdale ☎4176

**GIRLS JUST WANNA...**
have fun! GW femme, 40ish, 5'8", reddish-brown/green, into hiking, biking, camping, kayaking, anything outdoors, many more interests. Ready to have some fun with butch. Kennesaw ☎3819

**SOMETHING SERIOUS**
Clean-cut GPF, 6'1", 270lbs, pecan complexion, enjoys movies, walks in the park, quiet times. Seeking a feminine GF, for a LTR, serious inquiries only. East Point ☎4286

**LOOKING FOR FRIENDS**
GWPF, 39, in Atlanta area less than a year, looking for social friends, varied interests. Norcross ☎4287

**LEFT OF CENTER**
Intelligent, witty, attractive GWF, 37, enjoys gardening, soccer, music, books, movies, wine. Seeking warm, intelligent, attractive SF, 32-44, for possible LTR. Decatur ☎4126

**NEW ORLEANS**
Attractive GWPF, 39, 5'6", H/W proportionate, enjoys getaways, outdoors. Seeking feminine, attractive GWPF, 30-47, H/W proportionate, who can be herself, for possible LTR. Metairie ☎4172

**CHOCOLATE DIMPLES**
GBF, 24, soft butch, seeks serious, intelligent, and humane female, 21-28, femme, very sexy, for dancing, dinner, and quality time. Decatur ☎4417

## Just Friends

**MID 30S AND EARLY 40S**
GWM couple seeks down-to-earth GWM or GWF for friendship only. Enjoys dining out, movies, weekend travel. Not into bar scene, no drugs, and N/S. Lawrenceville ☎4320

**MOVING TO ATLANTA**
Down-to-earth, honest GBM couple relocating soon seeks real friends to show us around the city. Gastonia ☎4450

**SEEKING NEW FRIEND**
GBF, 33, enjoys concerts, plays, and quiet evenings at home. Seeking a mature woman for new friend. Clarkston ☎4427

**SEEKING A FRIEND**
GF, 52, 5'6", 230lbs, brown/brown, enjoys pets, movies, cooking, music, long walks. Seeking outgoing GF, with similar interests, for friendship, possible LTR. Cumming ☎4410

**STILL CRAZY!**
Big girl, big smile, big heart. Spiritual, passionate, down-to-earth, outgoing soft butch, 46, enjoys candlelight bubble baths. Decatur ☎4367

**SINGLE GAY MOTHERS?**
Single lesbian, 29, seeks other grounded lesbians, giving serious thought to or attempting single parenthood. Let's share ideas, fears, hopes, and offer mutual support. Atlanta. Atlanta ☎3888

**NEED A FRIEND?**
GWF, 48, enjoys outdoors, dining, intelligent conversation. Seeking GWF, 36+, for friendship. Covington ☎3956

**BUTCH SEEKING FEMME**
Butch SWF, 32, 5'4", 250lbs, short brown/hazel, enjoys music, movies, and outdoors. Seeking honest, intelligent, fun-loving femme WF for friendship, possible LTR. Hoschton ☎4310

**LOOKING FOR FUN**
Dark-skinned GBF, 25, 5'7", medium-length hair, enjoys bowling, shooting pool, movies, swimming, reading. Seeking GF for friendship first, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎4201

**LOOKING FOR LOVE**
Active GWF, 38, N/S, N/Drugs, seeks GWF, 30-40, N/S, N/Drugs, to share my life. Atlanta area. Atlanta ☎4207

**LET'S BE REAL**
Attractive, soft-butch GBF, 28, seeks open-minded, intelligent GF for friendship first, possible long-term relationship. ☎4231

**IN SOUTH CAROLINA**
GWPM, 40s, 5'5", 145lbs, short sandy blond/blue, seeks GM for friendship, excitement. Spartanburg ☎4199

**LOOKING FOR LOVE**
GWF, 5'4", 180lbs, short blondish-brown/blue, enjoys travel, good conversation, movies, reading, music. Seeking GF for friendship first, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎4213

**SEEKING SEXY FEMME**
SBF, 47, 5'3", 175lbs, stud, who enjoys movies, softball, the park. Seeking feminine GF for friendship first, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎4242

**COOL, SWEET FRIEND**
Very attractive black/Indian female, 5'9", 130lbs, likes shopping, hanging out, meeting new people, travel, clubbing. Seeking stud female for close relationship. ☎4184

## TV/TS

**DON'T MESS WITH TEXAS**
You: frequent flying two-stepper, yellow rose wanna be. Me: Lone Star buckle, stetson for luck, Bucharest Bay, Bucharest truck. Can assist with sleeping, breathing. Decatur ☎4415

**SEXY...**
sweet, honest, tender, gentle sex-change transsexual, 28, 40D-26-36, very convincing, seeks male companion. Atlanta ☎3823

**CLOSET QUEEN**
New to Atlanta. Submissive GWTV, 5'11", 125lbs, seeks discreet friendship. Atlanta ☎4319

**LOOKING FOR FUN**
White transvestite, 22, 6'2", seeks open-minded, masculine SM, 18-28, 6'2"+, top, looks/weight unimportant, for fun times. Smyrna ☎4026

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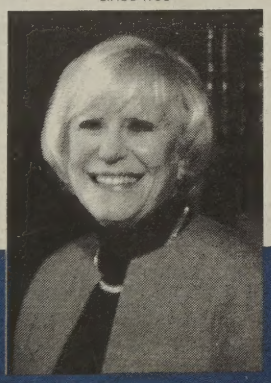

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## 'Further Tales' to tell

**Armistead Maupin's 'Further Tales of the City' comes to the small screen on Sundays in May on Showtime. Maupin and Olympia Dukakis talk about the third installment of life at 28 Barbary Lane.**

**Pages 25, 36**

## ATLANTA EDITION

**Popular 24-hour gay club Backstreet is still pouring, despite a city ordinance that trims its hours and was supposed to take effect earlier this week, the club's attorney said.**

**Atlanta section, page 4**

**Only three Atlanta City Council members—including openly gay Cathy Woolard—voted against a new redistricting map Monday that traded a bigger gay voting bloc in District 6 in favor of more black residents.**

**Atlanta section, page 3**

**Although DeKalb County CEO Vernon Jones had cooled his support for domestic partner benefits, county commissioners voted to offer the insurance, becoming the first county in Georgia to do so.**

**Atlanta section, page 3**

IN THIS WEEK'S ATLANTA SECTION

# GA case tests VT civil unions

ATLANTA—A custody battle between a lesbian and her ex-husband will bring the first test of Vermont civil unions to Georgia's Court of Appeals.

The court has agreed to review the case and may hear arguments sometime in the fall in a case that may be among the very first nationwide to test the validity of the landmark civil unions adopted by Vermont last year.

Susan Freer's ex-husband, the father of her three sons, charged in court that because she visited the boys in the home she shared with her partner Debra Freer, she should be held in contempt of a 1998 consent order in which both parents agreed not to visit the children "during any time where [one] cohabits with or has overnight stays with any adult" to whom they are not married or related.

Susan Freer took the last name of her partner and joined with her in a Vermont civil union in July. But a Floyd County judge ruled Jan. 30 that "a Georgia trial court is not authorized to consider a foreign 'civil union' as equivalent to a marriage."

"By virtue of the fundamental right to privacy, their marriage should be honored," said Cartersville attorney Adrian Lanser, who represents Susan Freer. "If we have this sacred right to privacy in the state of Georgia, then there you have it. Either it applies to all people or it doesn't apply to anybody."

**Open to the ATL section, page 1**

**Lesbian couple Debra (left) and Susan Freer can share only photos of Susan's children for now, as they take their legal case to a Georgia appeals court to force the state to recognize their Vermont civil union and allow Susan Freer visitation rights with her three children.**

# Gay housing suit shakes up Southern universities

## Georgia Tech, Tulane question housing policies in light of suit claiming anti-gay discrimination at NY medical school

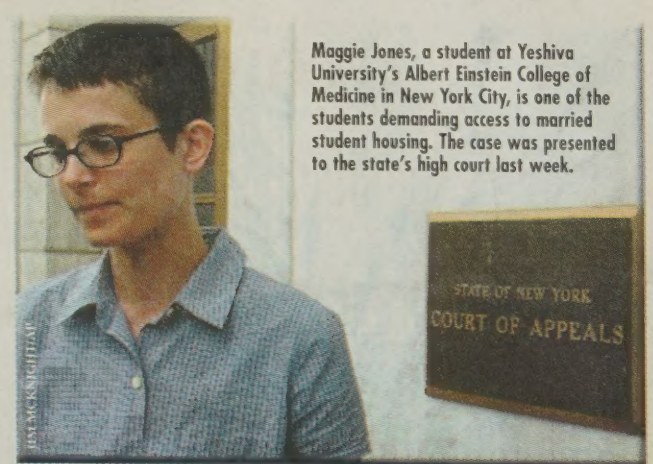
by ERIN O'BRIANT

New York's highest court will rule soon on a housing discrimination suit brought by gay students that has already had broad implications for universities across the South.

Two lower New York courts have ruled against the lesbian students who brought the case with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union.

But at least one Southern school—Tulane University in New Orleans—has nonetheless responded to news of the New York suit by opening up married student hous-

➢ **Continued on Page 16**




**Maggie Jones, a student at Yeshiva University's Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City, is one of the students demanding access to married student housing. The case was presented to the state's high court last week.**

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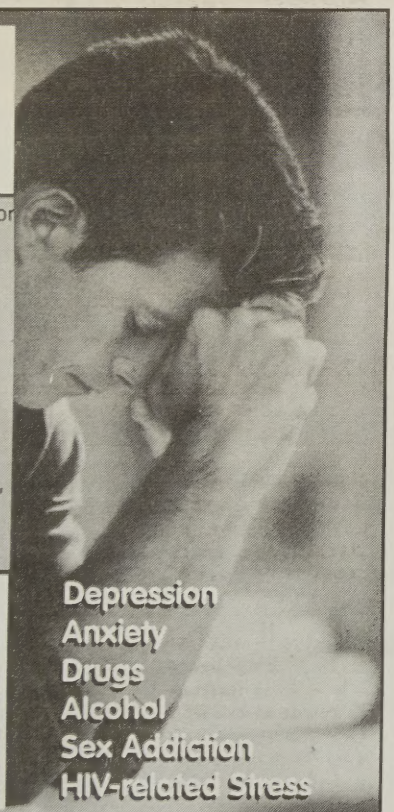

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# inside this issue

VOLUME 14.12 WWW.SOVO.COM

Gays unhappy with Home Depot's rejection of a gay-inclusive policy change look for alternatives .....5

## main section

### news

Around the South.....7
ACLU hires first gay, Hispanic leader .....8
Trans rumors swirl around Miss Universe contest.....8
Around the Nation.....9
Around the World.....10
Health News.....12
FDA targets 'glamorous' HIV drug ads.....13
Police Beat .....15

### voices & echoes

Editorial .....18
Letters: Religion, Mickler, Gephardt .....19
Your Voice Online.....20
Op-Ed/James: Gay GenX activism.....21
Op-Ed/Vanasco: A one-way trip to the closet ..... 21
Action!Alert: Commissioner knocks Gay Pride .....22
Quote-Unquote .....23

Gay author Armistead Maupin brings 'Further Tales of the City' to Showtime, airing Sundays in May. .....25

## sovo living

On Screen: Sundance winner, 'Scout's Honor' .....27
Out in Music: Gwen Avery sings the Blues.....28
Out in Print: 'Claws & Effect' .....29
Spiritual Calendar .....30
Religion News.....31
Self Help Calendar .....32
Dr. Is Out: Female sexual dysfunction.....33
Past Out: Greek gays slay tyrants.....34
Dish: Is that mister or sister?.....37
Get Away: Havana, Cuba .....38
Around the yard: Magical manure.....41
Horoscope .....46

## atlanta/across ga. section

(only available in GA and online at www.sovo.com)

ATL City Council redistricting could hurt gay vote .....1
ATL/Across Ga. News .....2
Ex-ATL pastor knows why she was defrocked, officials say .....3
DeKalb first county in GA to offer DP benefits..... 3
Backstreet's 24-hour pouring on borrowed time .....4
Activists protest at Ford over alleged harassment.....6
Change of Seasons wrap-up .....6
YouthPride plans for busy May..... 7
ATL/Across Ga. Occasions.....8
ATL/Across Ga. Community Calendar .....9
ATL/Across Ga. Events Calendar ..... 10
Out in Atlanta: The men behind 'QAF' .....13
On Stage: 'Black Battles with Dogs' .....14
ATL Theater Calendar.....14
Out on the Town: Music Midtown .....15
Eating Out: Mezza .....16
**classifieds** .....18
**crossword Puzzle** .....19
**personals** .....22

Lesbian couple Susan and Debra Jean Freer is pursuing a legal battle, that could challenge the validity of Vermont's civil unions in Georgia
.....ATL section, p. 1

## new orleans/gulf coast section

(only available in LA, along Gulf Coast and online at www.sovo.com)

Lesbian attacked, then charged in Baton Rouge.....1
LA legislature acts on gay issues.....1
PFLAG/NO to host gay prom, trans speaker .....3
N.O./Gulf Coast News.....4
N.O./Gulf Coast Community Calendar.....6
N.O. Occasions..... 7
Out in New Orleans: DJ Irene.....9
Eating Out: Landry's .....10
On Stage: May's flurry of theater.....11
Claiming Our Past: Police brutality .....12
N.O./Gulf Coast Events Calendar .....13
**classifieds** .....14
**crossword Puzzle** .....15

## mid south section

(only available in TN, AL, MS, western NC and online at www.sovo.com)

AL hate crimes bill clears House .....1
MS gay group returns to Web.....1
Mid South News.....2
Stomp, Riverdance come to TN.....5
Mid South Community Calendar .....6
Mid South Events Calendar.....7

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# Home improvement rivals ignore gays

## Home Depot wants to reject gay-friendly employment policies, but competitor Lowe's is no better

by ERIC ERICKSON

ATLANTA—Gay consumers upset over Home Depot's effort to thwart a shareholder proposal to add sexual orientation to the company's anti-bias statement may have few other gay-friendly options when it comes to home improvement.

Home Depot's biggest rival, Wilkesboro, N.C.-based Lowe's, isn't much better in a comparison of whether cooperate policies are gay-inclusive.

Other, much smaller home improvement chains, like Ace Hardware and True Value, vary depending on local store policies.

Atlanta-based Home Depot has come under criticism from gay civil rights advocates for strongly rejecting a proposal to add gays to the company's equal employment opportunity policy. A shareholder wants the measure considered during Home Depot's annual meeting on May 30; the company issued a strong rejection of the measure in its proxy statement for the meeting.

"I'm really like in total shock," said "Nancy," an employee of a metro Atlanta Home Depot who asked not to be identified. "I'm thinking they're very gay friendly. There's a lot of other Home Depot stores [with] gays and lesbians that actually work in the stores. Everybody wants to go to Lowe's."

### Comparison shopping

But taking their business away from Big Orange and giving it to Big Blue may not provide an easy alternative for gay and lesbian consumers who flock to Home Depot with such regularity that the chain is often referred to "Homo Depot."

Lowe's employment policies mirror those of Home Depot: discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, marital status and veteran status, all categories protected under federal law.

But the policy, like Home Depot's, leaves out sexual orientation and gender identity.

Lowe's would add sexual orientation if it was also protected under local, state of federal law, said Julie Eller, a company spokesperson. Home Depot officials echoed that response.

Gay civil rights advocates said that's an excuse to side-step the issue.

"It means that in 38 states they can discriminate against gay and lesbian people" because only 12 states have laws with employment protection for gays, according to David Elliot, communications director for the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.

Some 260 of Fortune 500 companies have non-discrimination statements that include sexual orientation, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

Eller said Lowe's does have a fairness program in place for store employees that talks about "inclusion, productivity, fairness and respect."

"It's just kind of our commitment to our employees emphasizing open communication, education and equal opportunity and valuing diversity," she said.

Last year, Home Depot extended some family benefits to both same- and opposite-sex domestic partners and their dependents. Those benefits include offering leave equivalent to that available under the Family & Medical Leave Act, bereavement pay, relocation expenses, inclusion in the Employee Assistance Program and membership in the fitness and health program, the company states in its proxy.

Scrutiny from gay consumers is nothing new for Home Depot.

Last June, Georgia Equality announced a project targeting nine Georgia companies—including Home Depot—to ask them to provide DP benefits. Since that time, AGL Resources (parent company for Atlanta Gas Light), Delta Air Lines and BellSouth have all agreed to offer the benefits.

"We have met with [Home Depot] a number of times and have felt we are making progress," said Harry Knox, executive director of Georgia Equality, a statewide gay group.

Six other companies remain on Georgia Equality's target list: Home Depot, UPS, Wachovia Bank, Shaw Industries (now acquired by Berkshire-Hathaway), Georgia Pacific and Gulfstream Aerospace.

Georgia Equality previously announced plans to put pressure on these companies by placing hard-hitting, prominent ads in mainstream publications, couching the refusal to offer DP benefits as "discrimination" against workers.

But the ads still haven't materialized and Knox has declined to comment on why.

### Hardware chains offer little choice

Two other national hardware store chains— All True Value Hardware and Ace Hardware Corporation—don't offer much more choice for gays looking for a company that offers gay-friendly policies.

All True Value Hardware stores are independently owned, and owners of each store make their own employment policies.

A spokesperson for Ace Hardware in the company's Atlanta office said it does include "sexual preference" in its employment discrimination policy, but the policy only applies to corporate stores, which number eight in metro Atlanta.

Jim Buzbee, one of two openly-gay co-owners of Ace Hardware in East Atlanta, said customer protests over Home Depot may not make much of a difference.

"Look at the money Home Depot takes in," Buzbee said. "Do you really think they really care if you or me as a gay person buy a bucket of paint in their store? They'll tell you they care, but it isn't going to put them out of business, and it's really not going to affect their bottom line a noticeable amount."

### Shareholder request

The stockholder proposal aims to "amend Home Depot's written equal employment opportunity policy to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and to substantially implement this policy."

The basis for this suggestion, according to the proxy, is that the company "claims to bar employment discrimination but its written policies do not explicitly bar discrimination based on sexual orientation," and "has an interest in preventing discrimination and resolving complaints internally so as to avoid costly litigation and damage to its reputation as an equal opportunity employer."

Implementing such a policy would "ensure a respectful and supportive atmosphere for all employees and enhance [Home Depot's] competitive edge by joining the growing ranks of companies guaranteeing equal opportunity for all employees," according to the proposal.

But the company recommends that stockholders vote against the measure.

"We believe this proposal is not necessary," the firm states in the proxy. "Our stated policy is that we do not discriminate on the basis of color, race, age, sex, natural origin, religion or disability. This policy mirrors the categories required by federal laws.

"If we go beyond legal requirements, it would be impossible to enumerate additional categories that fully express our inclusiveness," the company states.

Elliot, of the Task Force, said he doesn't buy that explanation.

"How much trouble can it be to add the words 'sexual orientation' to your EEOC policy," Elliot said. "It sounds like that's exactly the case here. If Home Depot really means that it doesn't discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, it should add those words to its policies."

Jerry Shields, Home Depot's senior public relations manager, said the company has received responses from the public about the proxy, but officials would not quantify the feedback.

Company representatives have been tight-lipped about the measure.

When Home Depot shareholders converge at their annual meeting later this month, Nancy, the Home Depot employee, said the controversy will be a moot point.

"I really think they'll probably pass it," she said. "I mean, when it comes around on the 30th, I think it'll pretty much pass."

**While nearly half of Fortune 500 companies offer anti-bias statement that cover gays, home improvement giants Home Depot and Lowe's do not. Home Depot is asking shareholders to reject a proposal that would change that during its May 30 annual meeting.**

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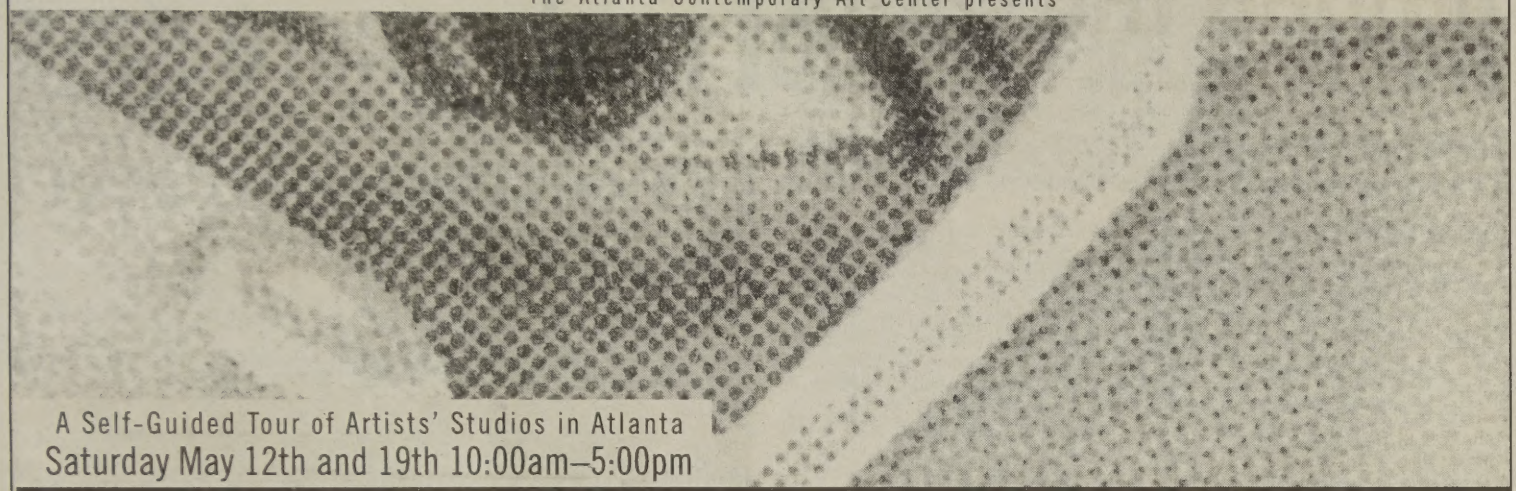

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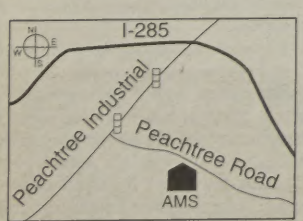

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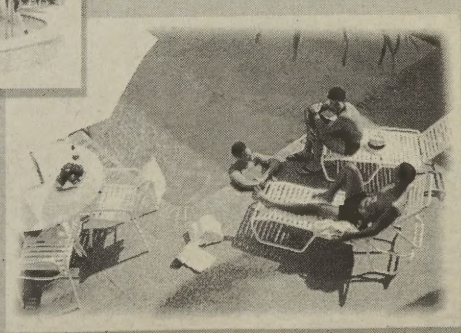

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# around the south

### GA court agrees to hear case testing VT civil union in custody case

ATLANTA—The state Court of Appeals will review the first case in Georgia to test Vermont's civil unions law. Atlanta resident Susan Freer, 36, seeks to regain visitation with her three children. Her ex-husband and the boys' father, Darian Burns, charged in court that because she visited the boys in the home she shared with her partner, Debra, she should be held in contempt of a 1998 consent order in which both parents agreed not to visit the children "during any time where [one] cohabits with or has overnight stays with any adult" to whom they are not married or related. The Freers obtained a Vermont civil union last year. "By virtue of the fundamental right to privacy, their marriage should be honored," said Adrian Lanser, Susan Freer's attorney. But Mathew Staver, president and general counsel of Orlando-based Liberty Counsel, the law firm representing Burns, said marriage is only for opposite-sex couples in Georgia. The court is expected to hear the case sometime this fall.

**For more on this story, open to the Atlanta section, page 1, or www.sovo.com.**

### Police in LA label anti-gay slurs in altercation as 'free speech'

BATON ROUGE, La.—Police charged two men and one woman in an April 15 altercation that allegedly involved slurs and violence toward four lesbian LSU students, including one of the women later charged in the incident. The women allege that Regan Ilgenfritz, who was later charged with battery, moved to protect her girlfriend from a physical attack and was beaten while the men called her a "dyke." Michael Holdeman, 18, and Tommy Lott, 36, both of Livingston, also face simple battery charges. Baton Rouge police did not classify the incident as a hate crime, and a police spokesperson said that the alleged anti-gay slurs were a matter of "free speech." The women also complained that police later interviewed them about the incident between 1 a.m. and 4 a.m., waking them from bed. Police said that investigators wanted to dispose of the case quickly.

**For more on this story, open to the New Orleans section, page 1, or www.sovo.com.**

### AL House again okays measure to add gays to state hate crime law

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—The state House approved adding sexual orientation to the state's hate crimes law last week. The measure now moves to the Senate, which let the bill die without a vote last year. House Bill 423, which includes sexual orientation as a protected category—and defines it as heterosexuality, homosexuality or bisexuality—passed the House by a 45-42 vote. The bill's sponsor, state Rep. Alvin Holmes (D-Montgomery), said it simply makes it clear that the right to be free from reasonable fear, intimidation, harassment and physical harm extends to everyone in the state. But the measure faces strident opposition from legislators who argue that it creates a special class of protection for gays.

**Alabama state Rep. Alvin Holmes says his gay-inclusive hate crimes proposal, which passed the House last week, would protect all citizens—gay or straight—and should be okayed by the Senate.**

**For more on this story, open to the Mid South section, page 1, or www.sovo.com.**

### LA lawmakers dump civil union ban, consider several gay-friendly bills

BATON ROUGE, La.—A flurry of legislative activity last week directly affects gays, including the failure of anti-civil union bill to pass the state Senate. Lawmakers also introduced a bill to repeal the state sodomy law, which already faces a court challenge, and two competing bills that would ban anti-gay workplace harassment. Another measure would remove gays arrested for having consensual sex under the state's sodomy law from public notification provisions of a sex offender law. On April 26, the Senate failed to pass a measure by state Sen. "Clo" Fontenot to ban civil unions in the state, even though the vote was 17-16 in favor of the bill. The bill needed a two-thirds majority—or 20 votes—to pass. Fontenot brought the bill up a second time on Tuesday, when it again failed to garner the needed vote. The legislative session ends June 18.

**For more on this story, open to the New Orleans section, page 1, or www.sovo.com.**

### SC woman who embezzled from AIDS charity gets 15-year sentence

FLORENCE, S.C. (AP)—A woman who embezzled more than $30,000 from an AIDS charity has been sentenced to 15 months in prison. Karen Rochelle Beckford, 34, was sentenced April 26 for stealing funds from Hope for the Pee Dee, which provides health care services for people with AIDS. The agency receives between $200,000 and $400,000 in federal funds a year. Beckford, who directed Hope for about a year, will serve the sentence consecutively with a sentence she is serving in Arizona related to a 1991 incident in which she embezzled funds from another employer. She also was ordered to pay $30,511.31 in restitution. Beckford admitted typing her name on checks for Lab Corp., a local company that performed tests for the clinic, and depositing them in her personal account.

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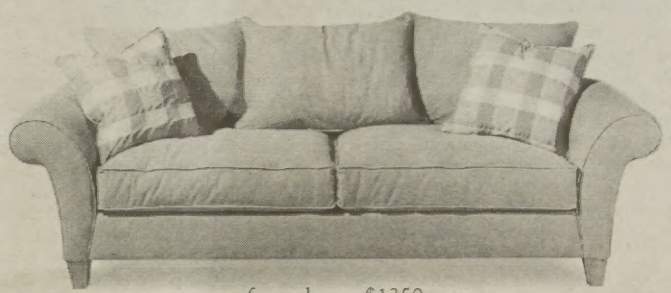

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# Gay Hispanic attorney tapped to lead ACLU

## New executive director backs controversial defense of NAMBLA in $200 million lawsuit

by ERIC ERICKSON

NEW YORK—A 35-year-old attorney was tapped this week to be the ACLU's first gay and Hispanic executive director, taking the reins of one of the nation's most influential civil rights groups at a time when it is involved with a controversial gay case.

Anthony D. Romero, 35, currently serves as a director of the Ford Foundation's program for human rights and international cooperation, overseeing $90 million in grants, including some to gay organizations like the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.

"It's an opportunity for me to educate the public more broadly around the issues and the challenges that still confront us as a community, to use my own personal situation, to use my own personal commitment in these issues and to really amplify it on a national stage," Romero said.

Romero's selection, announced Monday, will become official in September, when he will replace Ira Glasser, who is retiring after 23 years in the post.

The Bronx-born graduate of Stanford Law School and Princeton University takes the helm of the ACLU as its representation of a controversial gay group is garnering national exposure.

**INFO**

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The ACLU is representing the North American Man/Boy Love Association in a $200 million lawsuit filed by the family of Jeffrey Curley, a 10-year-old killed in 1997 after he resisted the sexual advances of two men.

The family claims NAMBLA and its Web site incited the men to molest and murder the boy. But Romero said the lawsuit, and the ACLU's involvement, is not about NAMBLA or the gruesome murder, but centers on freedom of speech.

"Obviously, the shocking murder and the crime that took place, that is not what we are defending," Romero said. "The ACLU is very clear about the defense of free speech. We're defending the [NAMBLA] Web site. "As I've read the material and what I've learned from it is that the ACLU takes the position that those who perpetrate the crime are responsible for what they [do], but those who speak about it are not. And so that's the line that's being drawn and why it makes sense for the ACLU."

Romero is the sixth person named to head the ACLU in its 81-year history.

"His experience at Ford was just terrific because not only did his beat there very much overlap with the ACLU's substantive human rights agenda, but he also managed the largest program at Ford itself with a $90 million budget," said Nadine Strossen, the ACLU's president and a part of the 14-member team that unanimously selected Romero.

**Anthony Romero will become the ACLU's first openly gay and Hispanic executive director when he takes his new post in September.**

Romero's diverse background will help him in the new position, Strossen said.

"We did not see anybody who was more outstanding than he was. Period," Strossen said. "It's like a fringe benefit in terms of diversifying our leadership, which is very important to us. For those people who say you have to choose between merit and affirmative action, it couldn't be further from the truth."

Romero becomes one of the youngest executive directors in the group's history.

The son of Puerto Rican immigrants, Romero is fluent in Spanish and English, an attribute that will help him as the ACLU works on cases involving immigrant rights.

His appointment also comes at a time when Census figures show Hispanics rival blacks as the nation's largest minority group and gay civil rights has made an inroad into national politics.

"The fact is, gay and lesbian people have made enormous contributions to the struggle for civil rights and civil liberties," Romero said. "And we have much to accomplish. We have not yet achieved the formal equality under law, the basic human rights and human freedom that are due to us under our bill of rights and under our constitution, and that's one of the things I am most passionate about making sure we do."

As the ACLU's executive director, he said will work to make the civil rights organization more prominent in local communities. He said the ACLU will continue to focus on defending religious liberty, reproductive freedom and the rights of women, minorities and gays.

"I hope to begin my tenure as the leader of this vitally important organization by sparking a new dialogue about the bedrock values of American democracy," he said, adding his goal is to "promote a new generation of committed civil libertarians and civil rights activists."

# Rumors of trans contestant fuel Miss Universe frenzy

## Trans activists say news coverage driven by 'spectacle appeal'

by ANDY COLE

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—The Miss Universe pageant, the popular contest jointly owned by CBS and Donald Trump, entered uncharted territory last week when the media picked up on an Internet rumor that claimed Miss France, Elodie Gossuin, is in fact a man.

Called false by Gossuin and pageant officials, the buzz of a transgendered contestant created a frenzy big enough to interest journalists in France, the U.S. and Puerto Rico, where the event is to be held on May 11.

But transgendered activists said the rumors are nothing more than an insensitive curiosity.

"To the degree that the mainstream press covers transgendered issues at all, they usually cover it for spectacle appeal," said Riki Wilchins, executive director of Gender PAC.

The rumors about Gossuin show that society has a long way to go in its acceptance of transgendered issues, said Kevin McClelland, regional media director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation in Atlanta.

"When I first saw the story, I thought, 'Once again transgendered people are being pulled out for a publicity stunt or ridicule,'" he said.

The suggestion that Gossuin was a biological male first surfaced in January, when *L'Examineur*, a French tabloid whose content is a cross between to the satirical newspaper the *Onion* and the *National Enquirer*, ran an article headlined "Miss France is a Man."

In a spoof that was apparently missed by U.S. journalists when they picked up the item, the *Examineur* asked, "Who did not allow himself be touched by her harmonious curves, her pure features and her angelic smile? They are, however, those of a 27-year-old man, Nicolas Levanneur, a dancer at a transvestite cabaret in Paris."

The *Examineur* published an article this week acknowledging that Gossuin is indeed a woman and always has been, attributing the initial story to inaccurate information.

Weeks after the first *Examineur* article, the *New York Daily News* ran an article under the banner, "C'est What? Miss France's Gender Questioned," in its daily gossip column. Citing "rumors which surfaced on the Internet"—a reference to the *Examineur* article, a *Daily News* spokesperson confirmed—the story said that "pageant officials still weren't sure whether ... the aspiring nurse was also an aspiring female."

Pageant spokesperson Mary Hilliard McMillian said that if Gossuin did "turn out to be a man, we'll put her on the first plane back to France," pointing to contest rules that require all contestants to be "natural-born females."

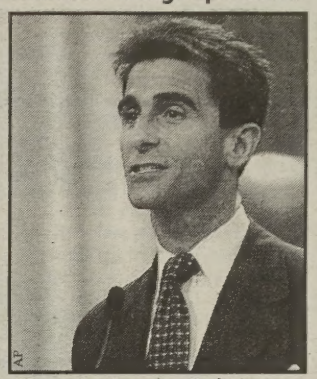
"We knew the day was coming when this would become an issue," she said. "There are pageants for transgender and transsexual people. That's what they specialize in; that's what they're good at. We are a pageant for natural-born women."

**Elodie Gossuin, a 20-year-old nursing student from Picardie and this year's Miss France, was at the center of a media circus last week after rumors surfaced that she is a biological man.**

# around the nation

## San Fran becomes first city in country to cover sex-change operations

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—San Francisco has gone one step beyond offering domestic-partner benefits by becoming the only city in the nation to offer insurance coverage to transgender employees seeking sex-change operations. The measure passed the city Board of Supervisors 9-2 Monday and will go to Mayor Willie Brown for a signature before the benefits would begin July 1. "It is landmark legislation," said Supervisor Mark Leno, who has worked two years to have the benefits added. Supervisors Tony Hall and Leland Yee were the only two to vote against the benefits Monday. "To set one group apart and factionalize our society creates more animosity, more hatred, more bigotry," Hall said. The city currently has 14 identified transgender employees out of its 37,000 workers. The added benefits would cost workers $1.70 each a month. There is a $50,000 lifetime cap for each employee. The state of Minnesota offered similar benefits, but the program was phased out in 1998.



San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno's proposal makes the city the only one in the country with the benefits.

## VT House committee continues plans to repeal the civil union law

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—Vermont's House Judiciary Committee voted last week to continue working on a bill that would repeal that state's civil unions law. The committee is one vote shy of approving a bill that would repeal the law that grants same-sex couples most of the rights and benefits of marriage. Committee members who support the law's repeal hope to get an up-or-down vote on the House floor for a bill that would create reciprocal partnerships. If passed, the reciprocal partnership law would repeal civil unions and offer such partnerships to all couples who are currently prohibited from marrying under state law. Meanwhile, more the 150 Vermont residents who have entered into civil unions gathered on the Statehouse steps for a photograph marking the first anniversary of the law. Over the last year, 427 Vermont couples, and 1,556 out-of-state couples have used the law to formally recognize their relationships.

## Curators object to toning down of AIDS exhibit by NYC museum

NEW YORK—The curators of a new exhibit at the Museum of the City of New York about a gay health agency's struggle against AIDS are upset that museum officials altered the exhibit's contents, the *New York Times* reported. The exhibit, "AIDS: A Living Archive," opened April 21 minus some sexually graphic materials, said Jane Rosett, who curated the exhibit with her partner, Jean Carlomusto. The exhibit is part of "Gay Men's Health Crisis: 20 Years Fighting for People with HIV/AIDS," and includes art and historical items documenting the fight against AIDS. "It's very disturbing. It seems like real censorship and distortion of history," said Dr. Lawrence D. Mass, one of GMHC's founders. Mass and Rosett said that photos were cropped to exclude images of intimacy between men, and that museum officials excluded condoms and pictures of male genitals from the exhibit. GMCH spokesperson Marty Algaze said the group understood the compromises that were necessary to be in partnership with the museum.

## PA man wants anti-gay harassment suit against Coke reinstated

PHILADELPHIA—A Coca-Cola bottling plant employee is trying to get an anti-gay harassment suit reinstated that was dismissed by a lower court judge, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported. John J. Bibby said he experienced a hostile work environment the entire time he worked at the plant because he is gay. But his case was dismissed last year when a federal judge found that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1965 does not protect gays from workplace harassment. Bibby's attorney, Arthur B. Jarrett, told the three judge appeals panel that Title VII must be read to include more than just gender and sexual conduct. Otherwise, Bibby could sue if he is the target of sexual advances by a woman or another gay man, but not if harassed by a straight man. Coca-Cola attorney Michael G. Tierce countered that Bibby was trying to get the courts to give him what Congress has declined to provide, pointing out that other conditions, such as obesity, are also not protected under federal law.

## Teen who sued CA school district for gay-straight club sues again

ORANGE COUNTY, Calif.—A bisexual teen who successfully sued the Orange Unified School District to hold meetings for a gay/straight alliance is now suing over her suspension, the *Orange County Weekly* reported. Heather Zetin, co-founder of El Modena High School's Gay/Straight Alliance, said she is innocent of charges that she bit Canyon Hills High School Principal Stanley Pasqual. Zetin was arrested following the incident, but the Orange County district attorney's office declined to prosecute the case. The lawsuit stems from a school board meeting in March 2000. A videotape shows several dozen protesters standing in silent protest during the meeting. When two protesters went to the front of the room and knocked the microphone from another speaker's hand, the altercation erupted. The videotape does not clearly show the biting. Last year, Zetin successfully sued the school district for the alliance's right to hold meetings

*—From staff and wire reports*

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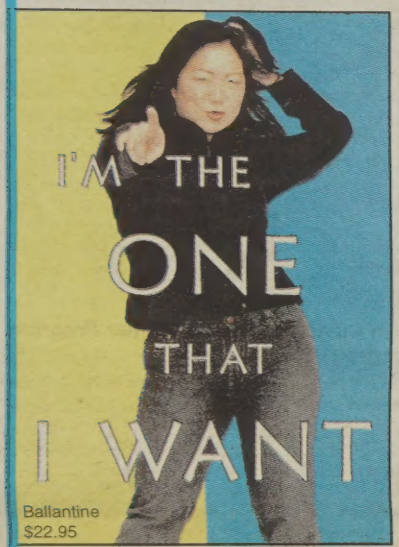

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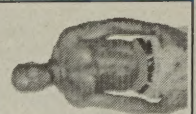

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# around the world

## World finance leaders urge global fund to fight AIDS, other diseases

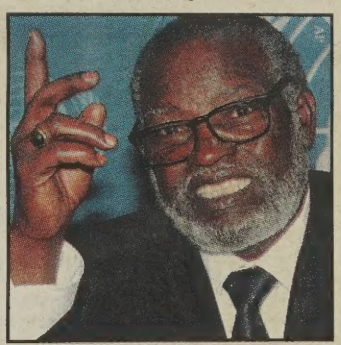
WASHINGTON (AP)—A plan to establish a huge global fund to combat AIDS and other infectious diseases in developing countries gained momentum as world finance leaders ended the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank this week. The ministers pledged there would be a substantial increase in funds to fight AIDS and other infectious diseases in poor countries. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said at a conference in Philadelphia Monday that an effective campaign to combat AIDS would cost $7 billion to $10 billion. Anti-globalization groups, who contend the IMF and World Bank are not doing enough to help the poor, mounted one protest rally on Sunday afternoon attended by about 250 people. In their communique, the finance leaders said there was a need for a "substantial increase in global resources" for the fight against AIDS and other infectious diseases in poor nations. The finance leaders did not specify how much money would be included for the effort to fight infectious diseases but called on wealthy countries to come forward with pledges of support in time for a United Nations special AIDS meeting in June. The issue is also expected to be a main agenda item at the annual economic summit of the world's seven richest industrial countries in Genoa, Italy, in July.

## New Zealand's first transsexual lawmaker quitting after one term

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand's first transsexual lawmaker, Georgina Beyer, says she will retire from politics next year. Beyer told the governing Labor Party's April 28 regional conference that she was leaving politics to spend time developing her links with her Maori tribe and family. "It was not my intention to be in politics forever. There are other things that I want to do in my life," she said. Beyer first won office in local government in 1993; she published her biography, "Change for the Better," before she won parliamentary office. The book described Beyer's gradual realization that she was a woman in a man's body. "My life is an open book," she said after her election, asserting that recognition of her work in the public sector, rather than curiosity, led to her electoral success.

## Hundreds march in Namibia to protest anti-gay threats by president

WINDHOEK—Hundreds of Namibians marched through their capital April 28 to protest President Sam Nujoma's attacks on gays and other minorities, Reuters reported. "The independence of the judiciary and the media is under threat, people's rights are threatened with the go-ahead being given by the head of state," said Pauline Dembers, a spokesperson for Southern African Human Rights NGO Network. Nujoma has described gays as "unnatural" and threatened to arrest and deport them. He has also attacked white Namibians, accusing them of not having the country's interests at heart. "Equality cannot be achieved in Namibia without sexual rights being respected," said the group Head of Sister Namibia, a women's organization defending the rights of lesbians.



**Namibia President Sam Nujoma's attacks on gays led to protests last weekend and a call for equality.**

## South African president reignites AIDS debate by rejecting HIV tests

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP)—President Thabo Mbeki last week questioned the need for people to take HIV tests, and said there was disagreement among scientists about what exactly was being tested. Mbeki caused an international uproar more than a year ago when he questioned the link between HIV and AIDS. After his public image took a battering, Mbeki withdrew from the debate, and his government said its AIDS policy was based on the premise that HIV does cause AIDS. But in an April 24 television broadcast, Mbeki said he would not take a public HIV test as it would send a message that he supported a particular scientific viewpoint. "I go and do a test—I am confirming a particular paradigm," he said. Mbeki also rejected growing calls for the government to provide anti-retroviral drug to people with AIDS, claiming the treatments are not yet proven safe. "Let's stop politicizing this question, let's deal with the science of it," he said.

## Australian lawmakers strike compromise to salvage gay measures

MELBOURNE—Gay activists in Victoria are cautiously optimistic that a law that would provide benefits for same-sex couples might soon pass that state's Parliament, the *Age* reported. The Labor government, which currently controls the lower house of Parliament, supports a law that would amend more than 40 laws to include same-sex couples. The opposition Liberal Party, which controls the upper house of Parliament, is divided over the law. Independent MP Susan Davies has proposed amendments that would clarify and tighten the definition of "domestic partner," a move that has won the support of the government. Robert Dean, who would serve as attorney general in a Liberal administration, said the Davies amendment went a long way to meeting his party's concerns. "If [the bill] ever does see the light of day, it will not be as a bill that undermines long-term relationships in the family," Dean said.

*—From staff and wire reports*

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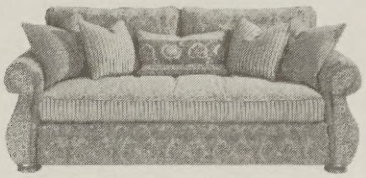

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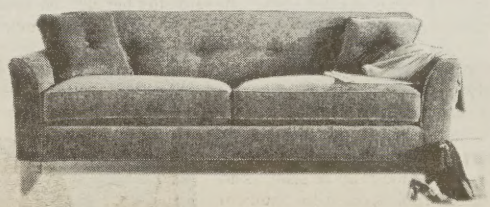

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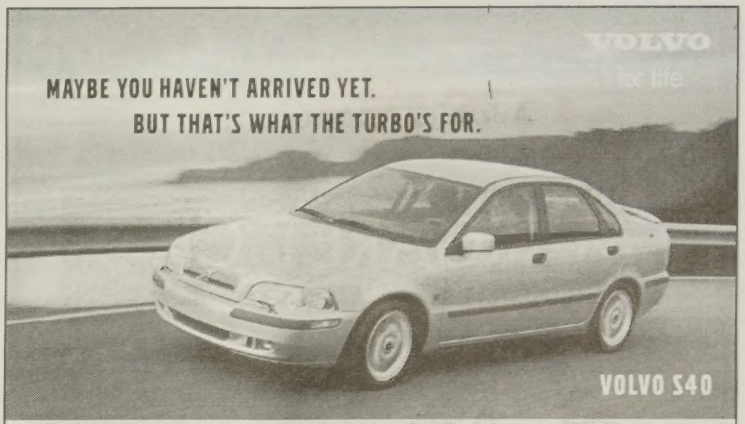


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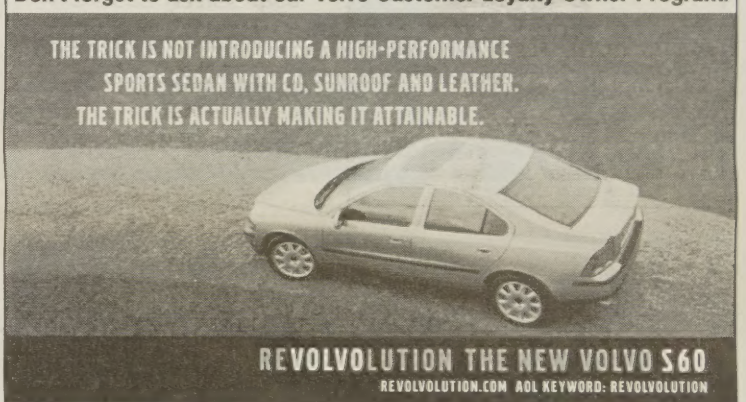
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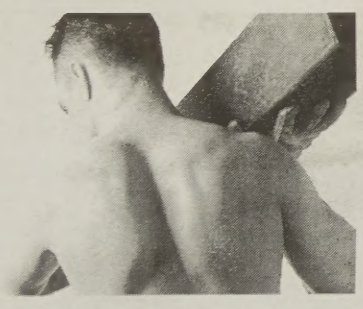

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# health news

## Typhoid found in gay man, part of overall jump in STDS, feds say

ATLANTA (AP)—Health officials believe that rimming may have contributed to the nation's first sexually transmitted outbreak of typhoid fever. A Cincinnati gay man passed typhoid to seven other men who had sex with him last summer, federal researchers said last week. Typhoid is most often transmitted by swallowing food and water contaminated with human feces. The disease likely circulated by oral-anal contact among the men, said Megan Reller, an epidemiologist with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. Judith Wasserheit, the CDC's STD prevention chief, said the discovery was disturbing but not necessarily surprising. "We are seeing substantial increases in sexually transmitted diseases among men who have sex with men in multiple locations across this country," she said. Typhoid is marked by high fever, weakness, headache and, in some cases, flat, red spots on the skin. About 400 cases are reported annually in the U.S.; nearly 80 percent of the cases can be traced to overseas travel. Typhoid is treatable with antibiotics, but is occasionally fatal for victims who do not seek treatment.

## Children of gay parents more likely to depart from gender roles

LOS ANGELES—Two Southern California sociologists are taking issue with 20 years of research on lesbian and gay parenting, suggesting that the sexual orientation of parents does have some effect on children, the *Los Angeles Times* reported. Study authors Judith Stacey and Timothy J. Biblarz argue that the emotional health of children raised by lesbian parents is not significantly different from that of children raised by heterosexual parents, but that the former are more likely to depart from traditional gender roles. The researchers argue that teen boys are more sexually restrained than peers in heterosexual households, while teen girls show the opposite trend. The children are also more open to same-sex relationships, the study found. Stacey and Biblarz suggest the differences have been glossed over because gay parenting is such a volatile issue. Their study found no significant differences between the groups in anxiety, depression or self-esteem in their children. Stacey also said there were some advantages to lesbian parenting, as both partners tended to be highly involved in the children's lives, and more in synch in using parenting techniques. The study primarily focuses on children raised by lesbians, since there are far fewer children raised by gay men.

## Lesbians less likely to seek routine gynecological care, survey shows

WASHINGTON—Surveys indicate that lesbians may be less likely to undergo routine gynecological exams because they believe they are not at risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, the *Orange County Register* reported. A survey by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services found that more than one third of lesbians do not receive routine gynecological care. Fear of anti-gay bias from their health care provider also seems to play a role in their avoidance of scheduling gynecological exams, the studies found. But lesbians may face higher cancer risks, since they don't take hormonal birth control pills, which have been known to reduce the risk of contracting certain types of cancer.

## Effort to reduce tobacco use among gays, minorities gets $21 million

WASHINGTON—The American Legacy Foundation announced last week that it will donate $21 million over the next three years to organizations that are working to reduce tobacco use among gays and other minorities. "Accumulating evidence shows that smoking rates are higher among adult and adolescent lesbians and gay people than straight people. What's worse prevention and cessation research and interventions for LGBT are virtually non-existent," said Greg Greenwood, an investigator for the Queer Tobacco Intervention Project. The foundation was established by the 1998 Master Settlement between the tobacco industry and a coalition of state attorneys general. According to the foundation's press release, each group will have access to $3 million in grant money, with $3 million going to agencies that work on collaborative, cross-cultural projects. Information about the grants, to be awarded later this year, can be found at www.AmericanLegacy.org.

**Helen Lettlow, director of program development for the American Legacy Foundation, said gays are one of six 'priority populations' being targeted to curb high rates of tobacco use through $21 million in grants.**

## New studies cast doubt on theory that AIDS spread through polio vaccine

LONDON—New studies have cast more doubt on the controversial idea that AIDS arose from an oral polio vaccine that was contaminated with a precursor to the AIDS virus. For years, some researchers have speculated that the polio vaccine was grown in chimpanzee kidney cell cultures that carried the precursor virus, which was then passed to people when the vaccine was administered in Africa in the late 1950s. But in the April 26 issue of the journal *Nature*, British and Swedish scientists report that they found no chimp DNA in a stock of early polio vaccine used in Africa in the 1950s. Also, an evolutionary analysis of HIV strains in the Congo indicates they trace back to a common ancestor that infected people rather than chimps.

*—From staff and wire reports*

For more news, visit **www.sovo.com**

# FDA says deceptive 'beefy' AIDS ads must end

## Some activists fear tone of ads is too optimistic

SAN FRANCISO—Beefy, muscular models portrayed in AIDS medication ads will soon be a thing of the past as the Food & Drug Administration has ordered drugmakers to tone down their "misleading" images of HIV-positive men.

Prompted by complaints from San Francisco, the FDA, after months of investigation, agreed that the depictions of healthy, robust AIDS patients in drug advertisements is sending an overly optimistic message.

Last week, FDA marketing division chief Thomas Abrams informed drugmakers that they have 90 days to change their ads.

"Images that are not generally representative of patients with HIV infection are misleading because they imply greater efficacy than demonstrated by substantial evidence, or minimize the risks associated with HIV drugs," wrote Adams in a letter to drugmakers.

Adams, whose division regulates what drug companies can say in consumer advertisements, also said the ads "do not adequately convey that these drugs neither cure HIV infection nor reduce its transmission."

Tom Ammiano, president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, had hoped the pharmaceutical companies would voluntarily redo their ads after the city held a forum last month that criticized the ads as too glamorous and contributing to new HIV infections.

Ammiano had threatened the drug manufacturers with pulling ads placed on the city's bus shelters. The city receives about $1 million a year in outdoor drug advertising.

"I don't want to have any bans on advertising, but I do want dialogue. I'm not going to drop the ball," Ammiano said after the forum.

When the drug companies failed to change the antiviral ads portraying young, buff men climbing mountains and sailing, Ammiano alerted the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

"I want it to stop being all about profit and more about prevention," he said.

FDA officials seemed to take notice of research by the health department suggesting that gay men felt the ads were affecting decisions on whether to have unsafe sex.

"They have been using sex to sell AIDS drugs," said Jeff Getty, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*. "It's a major victory."

Activists were particularly upset with the ad campaign of Merck for its antiviral drug Crixivan. The ads depicted healthy AIDS patients hiking on a rocky mountaintop.

"On these drugs, you don't feel like climbing a mountain," Getty said.

"The ads are misleading and create a false sense of hope because they ignore common side effects associated with the drugs, such as chronic diarrhea, weight loss and deforming fatty deposits," he said.

AP

**Jeff Getty of the organization Survive AIDS said many ads for AIDS drugs are misleading and ignore common side effects associated with the medications.**

Getty, of the organization Survive AIDS, compared this advertising campaign to one used by another industry not too long ago.

"Tobacco advertising portrayed people looking young, sexy and having happy healthy lives," Getty said. "Those ads were banned in most places. These HIV ads are the Joe Camel ads of AIDS."

Daniel Dallabrida, a San Francisco consultant to both drug companies and community groups on health care issues, said there is a need for a "balanced" message on AIDS drugs. While he agreed that AIDS drug companies need to address the "treatment optimism" issue, he also said it is not a bad thing to show positive images of people with AIDS.

"There are many handsome, healthy and strong men and women who have HIV and are taking the medications. It is widely believed that hope and optimism and belief in the future are important to people with any disease," Dallabrida told the *Chronicle*.

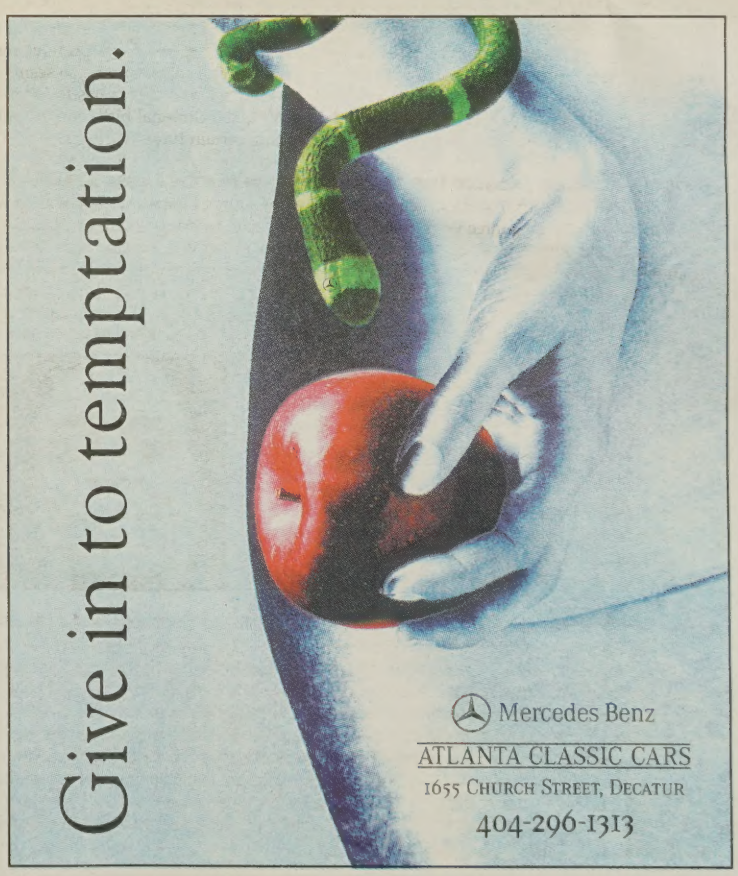
Dr. Tom Coates, director of the UCSF AIDS Research Institute, said he would like to see half of the ad space devoted to prevention messages, large side effects warnings and information about the importance of talking to physicians about which drugs are right for each patient.

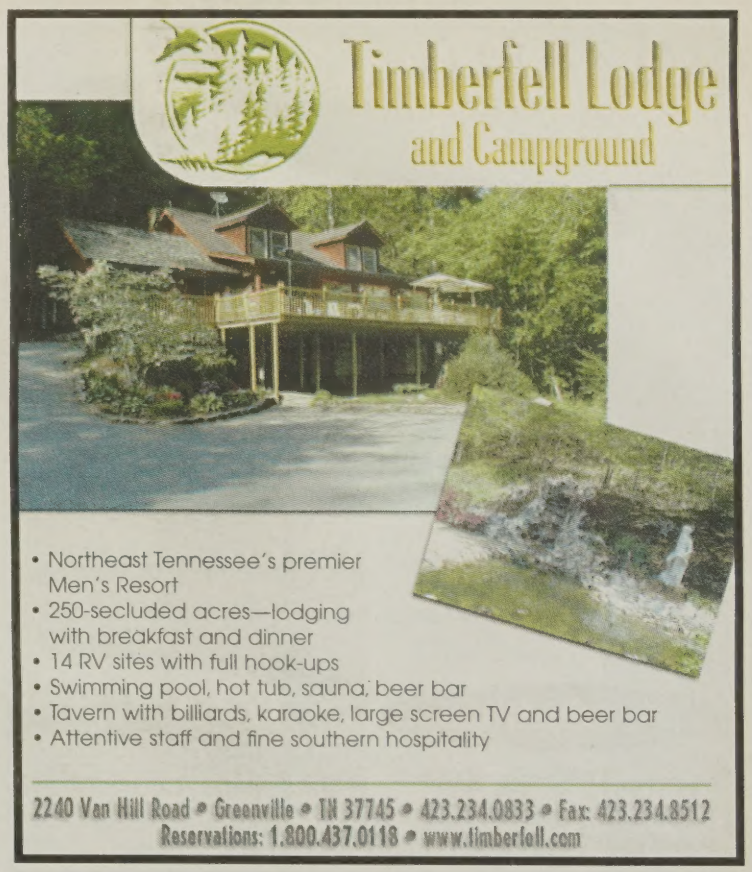
"We are 10 to 20 years away from a vaccine," Coates said. "We're going to be living with this disease for a long time."

In addition to Merck, other pharmaceutical companies notified include Pfizer Inc. and GlaxoSmithKline, which make a variety of drugs that inhibit infections that exploit damage to the immune system.

"As a rule, we don't comment on any discussions or actions taken by a regulatory agency," said a spokesperson for Merck.

*—From staff and wire reports*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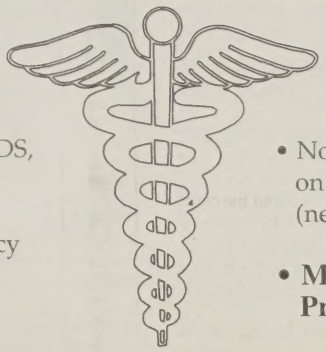

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# police beat

### PA man claims anti-hetero bias prompted grocery store assault

NEW HOPE, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania man who accused a gay rights advocate of discriminating against him because he is straight has been charged in a supermarket scuffle they had March 31, police said. David Vine, 59, was charged with simple assault, disorderly conduct, harassment and stalking for allegedly shoving, shaking and striking store employee Elaine McNeely, who also organizes New Hope's Gay & Lesbian Task Force. McNeely said Vine asked whether she was involved with the task force and told her he thought she was discriminating against him, a straight man. When McNeely tried to leave the store's deli, Vine allegedly "took hold of both of the victim's arms and shook her back and forth while yelling at her," police said. Vine is accused of hitting McNeely twice with his cane and pushing her into a soft-drink display. Vine's attorney Christopher Serpico, said he and his client "look forward to having our day in court."

### South African man sentenced to life for killing gay youth activist

CAPE TOWN—A 24-year-old South African man has been sentenced to life in prison for the premeditated murder of a gay youth, *SAPA* reported. Morne Langeveld was convicted of the murder of Johan le Roux Theunissen, who had just recently reconciled with his father, Danie Theunissen, by debating gay rights on a South African television show. The father said the debate had changed his views about homosexuality, and he had moved to be near his son, who was living with a partner at a gay commune. Theunissen told the court that he hoped his son's murderer would be "sent to Botswana, and I want to be the hangman." Langeveld was sentenced to an additional two years for stealing equipment from the commune. "The deceased showed you friendship and hospitality, and your response was to kill him and steal from him," Justice Selwyn Selikowitz said in sentencing Langeveld.

### D.C.'s top cop denounces anti-gay, racist messages sent by officers

WASHINGTON—District of Columbia Police Chief Charles Ramsey denounced anti-gay, racist and sexist messages that his police officers sent each other, the *Washington Blade* reported. Ramsey discussed the messages at a hearing of the D.C. Council's Judiciary Committee. Police officials said they discovered the offensive language in March during a routine review of e-mail transmissions that officers send each other from computer terminals in police squad cars. Of the 971,000 messages transmitted over the past two years, a keyword search identified potentially improper language used in 27,000 of the messages, or less than 3 percent of the messages sent. Officials said the officers appeared to have violated police procedures by using police-owned terminals to send unprofessional and improper messages, even though the officers never intended the messages to be released publicly. "There is no place in the [police department] for racist, sexist, homophobic, and malicious speech or actions of any sort," Ramsey said.

District of Columbia Police Chief Charles Ramsey critiqued the 27,000 messages fellow officers sent to each other last year that included anti-gay, racist or sexist language.

### San Fran district attorney won't fight venue change in dog mauling case

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Although it hasn't yet been requested, District Attorney Terence Hallinan said last week that he won't oppose any attempt to move the trial of Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel in the dog mauling death of lesbian lacrosse coach Diane Whipple. "We don't intend to fight a change of venue. We want a speedy trial," Hallinan said. The two lawyers charged in the death of their neighbor had their arraignment postponed for a third time while they continued to seek legal counsel, a tactic that riled prosecutors. Knoller and Noel appeared before Judge Herbert Donaldson, who continued their arraignment until May 9. Knoller faces a second-degree murder charge in the Jan. 26 death of Whipple, who was fatally mauled by two Presa Canario-mastiffs under the couple's care. Knoller and Noel both face charges of involuntary manslaughter and keeping a mischievous dog that killed a human. During the court appearance last week, Knoller and Noel never turned to face Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, who was seated in the front row. Smith and Whipple's mother have filed wrongful death suits against the couple.

### CA judge doesn't free gay awaiting hearing on parole case

VAN NUYS, Calif. (AP)—A judge denied on April 27 a request by gay convicted murderer Robert Rosenkrantz to be released from prison while awaiting a hearing next month to decide if he was wrongly denied parole by California Gov. Gray Davis. Superior Court Judge Paul Gutman denied Rosenkrantz's request to be released on bail or on his own recognizance pending the decision. Rosenkrantz is serving a sentence of 17 years to life for the murder of high school classmate Steven Redman, who outed Rosenkrantz to his father. Lawyers for Rosenkrantz have filed a lawsuit claiming Davis has a "blanket policy that all prisoners convicted of murder should never be paroled." Davis has said he has no arbitrary policy against granting parole to murderers. Three religious groups filed friend-of-the-court briefs on behalf of Rosenkrantz last month.

*—From staff and wire reports*

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# GA Tech explores same-sex campus residences

➢ Continued from Page 1

ing to gay couples.

The New York suit, which the ACLU said is the first in the nation to challenge anti-gay university housing policies, was filed in 1998 on the behalf of Sara Levin and Maggie Jones, two lesbian medical students at Yeshiva University's Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City.

The lesbians were not allowed to live with their partners in school-subsidized apartments for married students, and claimed the policy amounted to housing discrimination in violation of New York City and New York state anti-discrimination laws.

Yeshiva University requires students to produce a valid marriage license to live with a spouse in housing designated for couples.

Matt Coles, director of the ACLU Lesbian & Gay Rights Project, said the Yeshiva suit could be instrumental in demonstrating the unfairness of using marriage as a litmus test for offering rights and benefits, so long as same-sex couples are not permitted to legally wed.

## Southern schools debate policies

Lesbian and gay students around the country have confronted college administrators about similar policies that exclude same-sex couples from married student housing, mostly in response to the ACLU's calls to action on the issue.

At Tulane, a private school with a New Orleans campus, student concerns about the school's housing policy led administrators to "clarify" the university's policy on couples housing, according to the ACLU.

"Students [at Tulane] were being told they could not live with a same-sex partner in couples housing," said Eric Ferrero, public education staff member at the ACLU.

Once students became interested in the issue, however, school representatives claimed their policy did extend to same-sex couples, he said.

Tulane now offers couples housing to same-sex committed partners and married opposite-sex couples, Ferrero said.

Chris Daigle, director of gay and lesbian affairs at Tulane and the co-chair of LAGPAC, Louisiana's statewide gay rights group, said he did not know whether the university had clarified its policy. University housing administrators could not be reached for comment.

In Atlanta, students at the Georgia Institute of Technology raised the issue of housing for same-sex partners last week when they participated in a forum with Don George, president of the state's ACLU chapter, and other activists.

According to Dan Morrison, Georgia Tech's associate director of housing for residence life, the issue had not come up at the school until then. Like Yeshiva, Georgia Tech currently requires students who wish to live in couples housing with a spouse to produce a marriage license.

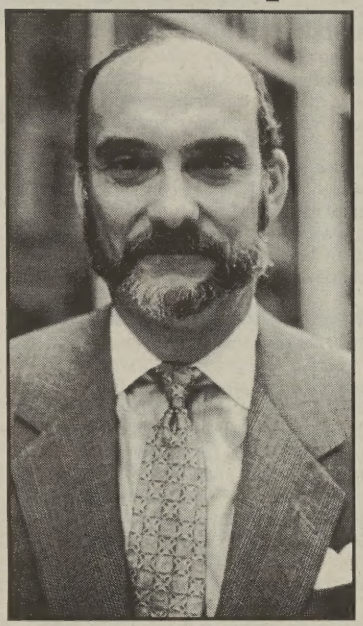
"We have the ability to change only within the parameters set by the state Board of Regents," Morrison explained. "I think the administration here would be in favor of it studying that and seeing if there's room to change. ... I see nothing in the way of preventing us from continuing to explore a way to make change."

Morrison said he is aware of a few gay couples who live together in the school's undergraduate student housing for singles, where policy requires that all roommates be of the same sex.

Michael Handelman, co-president of Georgia Tech's gay student group, said the housing department has been very receptive to his group's concerns about the housing policy.

"I give them very high marks on working with us on the issues," said Handelman. "It seems like it's not a matter of them not wanting it but not knowing about what the situation is."

Morrison said Georgia Tech's current housing policy excluding gay couples might conflict with the City of Atlanta's anti-discrimination ordinance, which covers housing discrimination and includes sexual orientation. The ordinance went into effect last December.



**Matt Coles, director of the ACLU Lesbian & Gay Rights Project, said it's unfair for colleges to use marriage as a litmus test for offering rights and benefits as long as same-sex couples are not permitted to wed.**

"I think one could say there is a conflict," Morrison acknowledged. "Whether or not Georgia Tech housing is covered by the City of Atlanta ordinance is a question that I have. City ordinances don't always apply equally on campus, but certainly there's a potential conflict there."

Gerry Weber, an attorney at the Georgia chapter of the ACLU, also speculated that Georgia Tech's policy could conflict with the ordinance.

"I think the argument would go that the distinction between only allowing married persons to use that housing effectively excludes persons whose intimate associations are 'unmarryable' in Georgia," he said. "So it excludes a class of people who, despite all the desires in the world to be married, are not allowed under Georgia law."

Handelman said the Georgia Tech gay student group will continue to push the issue.

"As an organization, we're really coming together on policy issues and I see this as one of issues we're going to be focusing on," he said. "In the future I really would like to collaborate with other college groups."

Other Southern universities have adopted gay-inclusive policies on their own.

Vanderbilt University in Nashville extended domestic partner benefits, including housing benefits, to same-sex couples in January 2000, said Mark Bandas, associate dean of residential and judicial affairs at the school.

"We will provide housing for gay and lesbian couples as well as opposite-sex couples," he said. Defining which couples qualify as domestic partners has not been a problem, he added.

"We've got a same-sex domestic partner certification," Bandas explained. "If they were from a state that had a domestic partner law and had that certificate, we'd accept that."

To obtain benefits, domestic partners at Vanderbilt must show that they are of the same sex, at least 21 years of age, not related by blood and in a committed relationship of more than six months' duration.

"It certainly hasn't caused us any difficulties," said Bandas.

Emory University in Atlanta, Duke University in Durham, N.C., and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville also have gay-inclusive housing policies, according to the ACLU.

## Suit argues 'unfairness'

The Yeshiva suit could do more than just encourage policy changes at a few schools, Coles said.

"We have had a very, very difficult time over the last 20 years trying to get courts and policy makers to see that when you use marital status

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BREAKING NEWS

# MN Senate backs down on DP benefits

ST. PAUL (AP)—The Senate softened its position Tuesday against offering health benefits to same-sex partners of state employees. The hot button issue surfaced Monday as an amendment to a funding package.

The benefit ban was meant to keep Gov. Jesse Ventura from extending the insurance to domestic partners of employees. The language was inserted in a state government finance bill on a 37-29 vote, but was watered down Tuesday by a 36-31 vote.

The new language allows Ventura's administration to put the health benefits on the table during contract negotiations now under way with employee unions. But government employees not covered by a union would still be denied access to such benefits for their gay partners.

Sen. Roy Terwilliger, an Edina Republican and one of five lawmakers to do an about-face, said he decided he didn't want to interfere with the governor's bargaining ability.

The notion of offering benefits to same-sex partners was never explicitly mentioned during Tuesday's debate. But Sen. Warren Limmer, who sponsored the original restriction, said it's something lawmakers will need to confront sooner or later.

The Legislature must ratify contracts the administration negotiates before they take effect. Limmer, R-Maple Grove, said "ratification would definitely be in question" if the contracts include the benefits.

Tuesday's action "may avoid the issue for the short-term, but it's an absolute certainty it will be addressed again," Limmer said. "There's no way to slide around this issue."

# Anti-bias law prompts NY lawsuit over campus housing

➢ Continued from Page 16

as a test that that always has an unfair impact on lesbian and gay couples," Coles said.

"If we can succeed in getting the New York Court of Appeals to say that, I think it will be a very important precedent all around country."

But even setting a pro-gay legal precedent isn't the most important possible outcome of the suit, according to Coles.

"The consequence of this [policy] for our two plaintiffs was for both of them that they wound up with about an hour-and-a-half commute each way and several hundred dollars more in rent," he said.

"What it shows in a practical, down-to-earth way is how unfair it is to say to a group of citizens, 'You can't get married,' and then to turn around and say, 'But the only way you can live with your partner is if you do.'"

In the suit, the two lesbians claim Yeshiva's policy forced them to live apart from their partners for long periods of time, spending as much as three hours per day commuting to and from school and paying hundreds of dollars more each month in rent for a private apartment than they would for student housing.

The ACLU alleges that Yeshiva's housing policy violates New York City law barring discrimination based on sexual orientation, as well as state law prohibiting marital status discrimination.

Their case rests on the legal doctrine of "disparate impact," which distinguishes policies that intentionally discriminate from those with an impact that is particularly unfair to a protected category of people—in this case, gay couples.

Though the language of Yeshiva's housing policy excludes all unmarried students from the housing, the ACLU argues that it disproportionately burdens gay couples, who can't legally marry and are therefore shut out of couples' housing entirely. Straight couples, the ACLU pointed out, have the option to marry.

"Under policies like Yeshiva's, 100 percent of straight couples have access to this housing, but zero percent of gay couples do," said Coles of the ACLU. "Under any reasonable definition, that's discrimination."

A number of other civil rights groups, including the NAACP and the National Organization for Women have filed amicus briefs in favor of the gay couples, as has New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer.

"The State of New York is committed to eliminating discrimination by requiring compliance with duly enacted state and local civil rights laws," Spitzer argued to the court.

## Yeshiva claims marriage rule is fair

Administrators at Yeshiva argue that the policy is not unfair to gay students simply because they are offered housing apart from their partners. They point out that unmarried heterosexuals are also barred from living with non-student partners in university's housing.

Two lower courts in New York have already found in favor of Yeshiva University, whose public relations office last week declined comment on the pending litigation.

Like many universities, Yeshiva has adopted an anti-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation, but the school has argued in court that the couples housing policy does violate either its own anti-discrimination policy or applicable city and state law.

"These people don't believe that this is sexual orientation discrimination," said the ACLU's Ferrero. "Part of the question that gets raised here [is]... if a marriage certificate is required, doesn't that discriminate against gay people because we're not able to marry?

"Yeshiva would say, 'As a university we're not discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation. Maybe New York state is discriminating by not allowing gay marriage, but that's a beef with the state, not with us,'" Ferrero said.

Mark A. Jacoby, a lawyer for the college, argued at the hearing on April 24 that a ruling in favor of the gay students would lead to an influx of students demanding cheap housing, the *New York Times* reported.

"We're not going to open the door to everybody who wants to bring in a buddy or a friend of a partner," Jacoby said, according to the *Times* report.

The ACLU's Coles dismissed Yeshiva concerns about defining which partners are eligible for couples housing.

"The majority of domestic partnership plans are done by private businesses, not government," said Coles. "They make up their own definitions that give them an adequate description of what they think a committed couple is.

"If IBM and Wells Fargo Bank can do it, then Albert Einstein can do it," said Coles, referring to the name of Yeshiva's Medical College, where the lesbian plaintiffs are students.


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EDITORIAL

# *Gays are MIA in ATL Council battle*

by CHRIS CRAIN

If Atlanta's gay community has truly gained political stature in the last few years, you wouldn't have known it from the debate Monday night over where to draw the lines for City Council districts.

By a 9-3 vote, the Council jettisoned the previously approved map, which would have moved two popular gay neighborhoods, Lake Claire and Candler Park, from District 6, which is already heavily gay, into District 5, which includes East Atlanta, Kirkwood, East Lake and Cabbagetown, also home to many gay residents.

The switch left in the rubbish heap a map that would have concentrated gay voting power in two Council districts, instead of just one. It also had the benefit of creating a new district that would unify all the parts of the city located in DeKalb County.

There was only one problem. The current occupant of that district seat, Council member Sherry Dorsey, is running scared that the gay voters in Kirkwood and East Atlanta, with whom she has repeatedly clashed, would join forces with new gay district residents to vote her out of office this November.

So to counter the gay card, and do so below the political radar, she played the race card. The map previously approved by the Council would have reduced the African-American voting strength in District 5 from 78 percent to 66 percent.

Though this still represented two-thirds of the district's residents, Dorsey complained that whites would effectively take over unless she could maintain a district that was three-quarters African American.

That argument is an unfortunate echo of the divisive rhetoric that spewed forth from the Right Rev. Amos Moore, who led protests in Kirkwood in 1988, crying about "the homosexual and lesbian take-over of the neighborhood."

Indeed, gay men and lesbians have moved to Kirkwood, and other parts of District 5, in recent years, joining in a gentrification effort that has dramatically rejuvenated some neighborhoods, especially East Atlanta, while putting a property tax squeeze on some longtime African-American residents.

Dorsey has courted the disaffected black residents, while refusing to criticize the likes of Rev. Moore, deciding without declaring which side of the tolerance divide she finds politically beneficial.

Her efforts to court gay voters have been clumsy at best, alienating gay neighborhood leaders and declaring tolerance based upon her past experience with openly gay fashion designers.

That's a bit like a white politician declaring affinity for black voters based upon a longtime association with a housekeeper. It's not overt prejudice, but it's far less than should be expected of an elected official.

With a spicy background like that, you would have expected some fireworks on Monday night, with local gay activists offering a spirited defense of redistricting that protects our voting strength while ensuring that African Americans retain the District 5 majority.

Instead, gay activists were no-shows, and the Council backed a new map that puts Dorsey in a far more secure position this fall. The map, which she proposed, splits Lake Claire and Candler Park, despite their desire to remain together, moving the former to District 5 while leaving the latter in District 6.

Georgia Equality Inc., the statewide gay political group that is supposed to lobby Atlanta's city government, by all appearances sat this one out. Harry Knox, the group's executive director, said their work was behind the scenes, and he declared himself pleased that gays retained at least 15-percent voting strength in both districts.

Does GEI really believe that a 15-percent minority is enough to wield real power? And isn't it always better to improve those numbers where possible?

Council splits gay vote
ATL section, Page 1

Black gay outreach launched
ATL section, Page 2

socially segregated as the city itself, and black gay Atlantans have never joined the political process in a vocal and visible way.

Georgia Equality is making an admirable effort to change that dynamic. The group's People of Color Outreach Project will conduct its first workshop May 12, focusing on voter registration and involvement.

Organizers hope to recruit out black candidates for political office, but our city would be immeasurably benefited if they succeed simply in awakening the sleeping giant that is our black gay community.

Black gay and lesbian residents ought to be heard on redistricting, and their participation at the crossroads of race and sexual orientation would undermine efforts to divide us in artificial ways.

Knowing how our interests are shared might even open up new avenues of compromise that are less apparent in the stratified politics of Atlanta in recent years. If the city's black gay vote can be clearly identified, an entirely new set of districting options might appear to our gay-friendly elected officials.

But until that happy day, all gay Atlantans should speak out about the dilution of our voting strength. Even if our own activists won't.

The party crowd even has a stake here. If not over the Council's effort to end Backstreet's policy of "always open, always pouring," then over the relatively new Sunday midnight alcohol curfew, or the lurking plan to close bars entirely on the Christian Sabbath, to keep it holy.

**Gay voting strength never got mentioned, and the sleeping giant that is Atlanta's black gay community never spoke up.**

Of course, the magic 15-percent figure has a distinct advantage for GEI: It's unverifiable, making it next to impossible to determine whether the group met its own goals, much less lobbied the city effectively.

But if public debate on redistricting is any measure, gay Atlanta was shut out almost entirely. Cathy Woolard, the openly gay Council rep, should be thanked for her vote against Dorsey's new proposal, and she even suggested an alternative that would have served the city, and its gay community, better.

But Woolard, who didn't publicly raise the issue of gay voting strength, was outgunned, in part by the conspicuous absence of her top opponent in the race for Council president, at-large rep Julia Emmons. The other announced candidates for the Council's top job, Michael Bond and "Able" Mable Thomas, voted with Dorsey.

So none of the public debate even mentioned gay voting strength as an issue for the Council to consider, and Knox and his staff didn't bother to even attend Monday's meeting, much less speak out for our community.

But even if GEI had done its job in lobbying the Council, the minority bloc politics that enveloped the redistricting battle were missing an even more critically important participant: Atlanta's black gay community.

Without the visible and vocal involvement of this city's sizable black gay and lesbian population, the debate was always in danger of coming down to black vs. white, with gays aligned with those white residents in the neighborhoods being moved from district to district.

In reality, of course, gays are on both sides of that racial divide, and black gays bring the unique perspective of wanting to maintain healthy voting strength for both components of their identity.

But Atlanta's gay community remains as

**INFO**

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www.ci.atlanta.ga.us
e-mail: Council member's first initial and last name and send to ci.atlanta.ga.us
for example, for Cathy Woolard: cwoolard@ci.atlanta.ga.us

**People of Color Outreach Project**
Georgia Equality Voter Workshop
Saturday, May 12, 9:30 a.m.-noon
Atlanta Community Food Bank
970 Jefferson St., N.W.
To register: 404-872-3600
or e-mail: admin@georgiaequality.org

# LETTERS

## *Matter of fairness to include trans in LA workplace bill*

To the Editor:

Your recent article "LA groups clash on workplace bias bills" (New Orleans news, April 26) was informative, but I have to admit that I was somewhat concerned that in this news article, the paper attributed as fact the opinion of one of the groups.

In reality, it is difficult to believe that the Forum for Equality, which lacks any experience outside of New Orleans, has any sort of credible or scientific poll of all legislators in Louisiana.

LAGPAC, on the other hand, is a statewide gay rights organization and has years of experience dealing with the state legislature and in the recent past was a primary coordinator of the state hate crime bill.

I think that background of civil rights experience gives LAGPAC credibility at the state level, and Forumn for Equality has apparently formulated its initiative in an internal vacuum disassociated from mainstream people or organizations in the state.

All the groups I'm associated with support a bill inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity based on the simple principle of fairness.

While the employment protections for sexual orientation and gender identity can be separated, and even LAGPAC has conceded that those decisions will be up to the legislators, I think including gender identity actually gives strength to the bill as a basic civil rights matter.

It might even help fend off arguments that the bill in only about special rights. The nationwide trend is towards inclusion, and it seems punitive for a few individuals to insist that another group of people must move to the back of the bus, or even better, take the next bus when it passes back by in 40 years—remember the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

*Diane Tanner*
*New Orleans*

*Editor's note: The letter writer is corresponding secretary for the Lesbian and Gay Community Center of New Orleans and the secretary of the New Orleans Mayor's Advisory committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues.*

## *Too much God in SoVo*

To the Editor:

Why do we have to have so much religious news in *Southern Voice*? ("UFMCC moves to defrock ex-ATL pastor," ATL news, April 26).

Anyone who is gay, and has had the sense to realize that most of what they have been told all their lives is a lie, must surely have the sense to realize that religion is the biggest lie of all.

*Pat Pharr*
*via www.sovo.com*

## *Not all Methodists follow Cobb County role model*

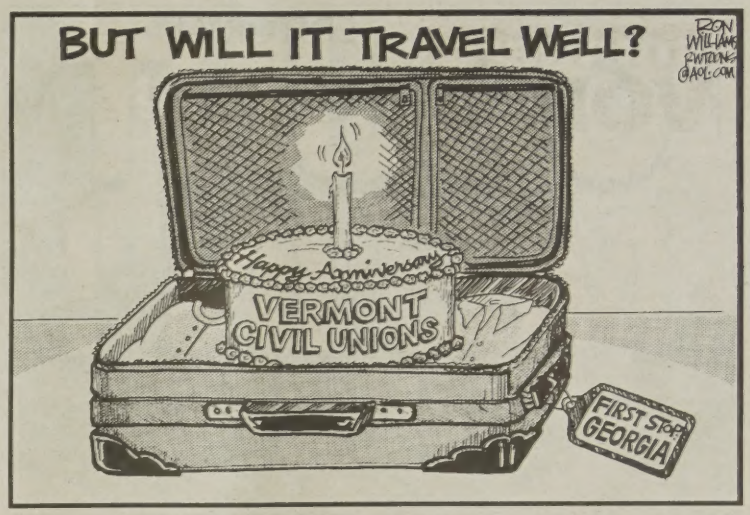
To the Editor:

I found your editorial ("Cobb County vs. The World, Round 3," April 26) very interesting. Just so folks won't get the idea that all United Methodist ministers are two steps to the right of Attila the Hun as Rev. Randy Mickler, of Cobb County's Mt. Bethel Methodist, and his bishop appear to be:

At my ordination a few years back one of the clergypersons laying their hands on me was a Jewish cantor (almost the same as a rabbi but with special emphasis on music), who was joined by our Hispanic bishop, a female clergyperson and other male clergy.

I felt blessed then and do now. And yes, I do welcome gay persons as God's children, just like any other human beings.

*Rev. Cliff Fryda*
*via www.sovo.com*




## *HRC's pick of Gephardt won't advance 'freedom issues'*

To the Editor:

How appropriate that the Human Rights Campaign has chosen Democratic House Leader Dick Gephardt for its annual fund-raising dinner in Atlanta. (ATL news, April 5)

Because of the huge tax bill I've just paid, and our oppressive federal government, I elect not to "honor" you all with my presence, but thanks for the invitation.

What will Congressman Gephardt orate about? Cutting outrageous government spending and your oppressive income taxes? Preserving your Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms? Keeping the government out of the abortion issue? Ending the violent so-called "war on drugs"?

Keeping the government out of your bedrooms, computers, and medical privacy? Allowing you to marry whomever you choose, without government registry?

I doubt you will hear these kind of freedom issues discussed, but I challenge you to challenge him on these topics.

I hope that those attending will bombard him questions about these topics, rather than accept the standard Democrat babble that says nothing.

*F. Caudle*
*Atlanta*

**your voice What do you think?**

**Send the editor your letters (400 words maximum) or op-ed submissions (800 words maximum). Submissions must include a name and phone number for verification.**

**1075 Zonolite Road, Ste. 1D, Atlanta, GA 30306**
**fax: 404-876-2709**
**email: editor@sovo.com**
**(no phone calls please)**

## The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

**by eric orner**

GAY BARS ON MARS
On Mars, no one uses cell phones. Their Antennae screw up The signal.
Lokie? it's Zob. WANNA MEET AT The CANAL For A SNARP?
Ethan Green always says: "When your social life hits rock bottom, change rocks". Which is why he's here on Mars. At a cruise bar.
Everyone's drinking Fresca & gin & Grapefruit juice. It's the drink up here, apparently.
Eeth's had a few cocktails, and has developed some pretty awful come-on lines:
So I SAID TO MYSELF. WHAT THE HELL, WHY NOT GO UP THERE & CHECK OUT SOME " HEAVENLY BODIES", YOURS FOR EXAMPLE.
OH BROTHER!
To be honest, these Martians aren't the bomb when it comes to looks. Still, it's a pleasant neighborhood spot. Guys gossiping with their friends.
Then Queelix shows up:
NEW IN TOWN?
JUST VISITING.
WHERE FROM?
PLANET EARTH.
YOU BOYS DON'T EVEN KNOW WE EXIST..
WE ONLY ACT THAT WAY ON DANCE-FLOORS..

eric_orner@ethanGreen.com

To be continued...

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Atlanta Pride Celebration
photo by bill austin of image photo
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www.atlantapride.org


# Your voice online

### Subject: "Your Voice Online" (April 26)

**James H**: To the gay man who said that Dr. Laura was right and homosexuality not "normal" among humans or other species: I certainly DO claim "that that percentage is normal in any other species." It is not a biological mistake, but a biological variation found throughout nature. You may also care to note that none of the animals in the other species react with horror about it. That is a uniquely human characteristic.

### Subject: "Home Depot rejects gay-friendly proposal" (ATL news, April 26)

**Drovar:** Based on Home Depot's decision to oppose a measure that would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation, and add that prohibition to the company's equal employment opportunity policy, our home improvement dollars will now be going to Home Depot's competitors.

**Anonymous**: How brave of Georgia Equality's Harry Knox to "take on" Home Depot when he, and all the other organizations we pour money into to help fight for our rights, are playing nice with Coke. Coke gives money to the Boy Scouts, an organization that excludes gays and we look the other way because they do nice things for the gay community now and then.

### Subject: "ATL gay, AIDS groups turn down money from circuit party" (ATL news, April 19)

**Shane N.**: I'm amazed that any charity would refuse money freely. To me, this doesn't make it a charity at all. Some holier-than-thou queens proclaim circuit parties as the moral low ground for the gay community. There's drugs and sex and... brace yourselves now, dancing, too. Unsafe sex—probably, safe sex—most likely. News flash girls: the gay/circuit scene doesn't have exclusivity on these sins. Since I'm a circuit boy, I'll think twice when another charity comes a knockin. They obviously don't want my money.

**Steve S.**: I find it odd that the AIDS problem began before circuit parties and the circuit scene. I guess we should not accept money from bars or clubs since they were around when the epidemic began. People will behave in any manner they choose; the setting is not the problem. I enjoy the circuit scene and in the future will no longer give any money to these so-called "charities."

### Subject: "UFMCC moves to defrock ex-ATL pastor" (ATL news, April 26)

**A Regular Sinner, Too**: It is unfortunate that Glenna Shepherd is unwilling to accept the ruling of a denomination that she has been with for years.

**Church Lady:** Thank you *SoVo* for printing this story. You have no idea the lives you are turning around in a positive way. Christ Covenant and the Minneapolis church are good churches with good people. Now if there is one more life that could be turned around, that would be the life of Glenna Shepherd.

**Sheri M.**: As a former leader of Christ Covenant MCC for many years, I lost my "faith" in "the church" because of what I conclude as unethical behavior of Ms. Shepherd and a few other clergy members who didn't seem to understand what the clergy collar stood for or how to use it appropriately. I also believe, at the time I left, that some members of the Board of Directors and some deacons at Christ Covenant helped perpetuate that behavior—some because they blindly-supported the pastor—others for self-serving motives. I left MCC and have found new ways to restore my faith and renew my relationship with God. My prayer has been that Ms. Shepherd would learn from experience. I don't know what has prompted the disciplinary action that caused her to lose her credentials, but apparently the kind of behavior I've witnessed hasn't changed. I truly hope that these actions won't cause further to damage to Christ Covenant.

**Anonymous**: Rev. Shepherd: It sounds like your congregation at Christ Covenant MCC is very unique. Apparently, they loved you so long as you stayed with them and did exactly as you were told. Unfortunately you stood up and left them. For that, you are hated and berated. I applaud you for having the courage to leave an abusive relationship.

**Anonymous**: Christ Covenant MCC is a loving community that believes that God is good, all the time! Please check us out and come join us on Sunday.

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VIEWPOINTS

# Activism can't compete with 'QAF' among gay Gen X

by NEIL JAMES

I was denied my freedom. I was denied my equal opportunity! I was denied my spicy chicken in garlic sauce! Why?

Because I'm gay. That and there is a minimum delivery order of $10 and my total came out to only $9.80, but more so, I believe, because the take-out girl on the other end of the phone may have thought I could have been gay, possibly.

Such blatant, in-my-face discrimination cut into my soul, making me re-examine my existence; everything I had once taken for granted and, until that life-altering moment, cherished.

Once that was done, four seconds later, I relented, ordering the more expensive pork instead. I know what you are thinking. "Of course she knew you were gay! You lisp like Paul Lynde and your Village People CD in the background was a dead giveaway. The rape of your MSG was inevitable."

But what surprised me, actual discrimination or not, was how quickly I gave up the fight. I meekly ate my pork entree, crying tears of defeat into my mushu. Even my fortune cookie read: "You pathetic sissy."

When I told my friends they were more outraged to hear I ordered common Chinese food, not chic Thai cuisine.

How did I get so apathetic? Or, better yet, how did my entire age group get so apathetic?

I'm an educated, white, gay male 20-something. I was raised by a single mother during the Reagan regime on a middle-class diet of Saturday morning cartoons, frozen dinners, MTV (when it ran videos) and the Atari 2600.

I was born into one of the first generations of kids who knew we were gay, and better yet, we accepted it early on. I didn't come out at 12, like today's queer kids, but a happy, enthusiastic 20, ironically enough on National Coming Out Day, my birthday.

Note to Dubya: Take away our 'Queer as Folk,' and you'd see boys lined up, picket signs with matching Dolce & Gabana man-purses, marching on Washington!

I've always known about the AIDS epidemic: a dark, spooky cloud hanging over my sex life, always on the horizon, but just far enough away not to be a reality. That ominous cloud hasn't stopped my age group from becoming infected, however.

Why not? We're spoiled.

We haven't been in riots. We haven't been harassed for holding a boyfriend's hand in public. We haven't lost scores of friends to an invisible plague, all the while our government telling us it was our fault we were getting sick and dying.

Tragedies like Matthew Shepard's murder and the Stonewall riots are bound into neat, little sound bytes, just enough to inform us, but we have nothing to relate it to. We've had everything we wanted given to us, on the spot.

We are the generation of short attention spans. Hell, by now, most of my friends have probably stopped reading. I should have included a picture of a shirtless boy. Nothing grabs our attention like the vacuous stare of a circuit boy and his glistening set of six-pack abs.

Don't get me wrong. A shirtless boy always works for me, but at a ripe old 26, I've begun to question if there is more to life than parties, drugs, booze and shirtless boys.

I hope not, but I wonder—how did we get so complacent?

We do have a common voice: Showtime's "Queer as Folk."

This cable demigod tells my generation what we should wear, how we should behave, and who we think is beautiful.

Take note Dubya. Steal our civil liberties? "Who cares." No gay marriage? "Big deal." Workplace discrimination? "Girl, I do hair, we're all gay anyways!"

But should the government threaten to take away our "Queer as Folk," you'd see boys lined up, picket signs with matching Dolce & Gabana man-purses, marching on Washington!

"Give me Emmett, or give me death!"

Although that would mean finding a ride to D.C., making a sign, and standing all day long.

When did this happen? Maybe I've always been apathetic. Even in college my youthful spirit matched with the enthusiasm of my newfound minority status didn't produce much in the way of political or social reform.

I sold baked goods for the lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgendered student union and as president of the science fiction club I was instrumental in adding both "sexual orientation" and "alien abductee" to our charter as a basis for non-discrimination.

Yep, I would have made Harvey Milk proud. So what can I do about my level of activism today? I hope to volunteer at the upcoming Atlanta Pride festival. My friends say it's a great way to meet guys.

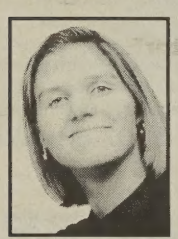
I haven't actually filled out any paperwork or called anyone, but I'm definitely thinking about it. Really, I am.

PALS Bingo is a charitable cause. I've been once, but didn't win anything.

There are tons of organizations and stuff I could join, and I'm sure they have Web sites. When I'm not downloading porn, I'll get around to checking them out.

You know, maybe writing this is a decent beginning to jump starting my new life of gay activism. Of course to write I have to turn on my computer and find a dictionary. Hmmm, maybe pork for lunch wasn't such a hellish injustice after all.

*Neil James lives in Atlanta, where he works for a local theater company; he can be reached at NeilAJames@hotmail.com.*



# A visit home is a one-way trip to the closet

by JENNIFER VANASCO

The restaurant was crowded with tourists escaping from the rain. My sister, opposite me, waved the waiter away, her face tense.

"You don't need to promote your lifestyle," she said to me.

I don't think she knew what hot-button words those are. I felt anger rising in me like steam.

"Our grandmother didn't need to know," she went on. "Dad's whole life is in our town and he would be hurt socially if his friends found out. There's no reason for you to tell people there."

I was livid. "And you're embarrassed about me and don't want people to know," I said. She shrugged and looked away. I think I saw tears.

I had been playing a what-if game with my 17-year old sister. Over the years, she had proven herself to be mildly gay-friendly. Her friends don't know about me, but she has always been sweet to my girlfriends. She's not sure about same-sex marriage, but even so she took the side of gays in a classroom debate. She came with me, on this trip, to a lesbian bar.

But now I was testing her, which was probably unfair. What if I brought my girlfriend to her high school graduation and we held hands? I asked. What if my girlfriend and I got engaged and I put the announcement in the hometown paper?

My hometown is the only place where, when asked by my parents' friends if I am married, I simply say 'no,' instead of explaining that I have a girlfriend.

I realized, as I tossed these questions out to her like grenades, that I was angry. I was frustrated by her murky blend of tolerance and acceptance and rejection.

Mostly, though, I was angry with myself. Because I realized, in that small, crowded restaurant, that my homogeneous, upper-middle class hometown is the only place where I force myself to be closeted.

My hometown is the only place where, when asked by my parents' friends if I am married, I simply say "no," instead of explaining that I have a girlfriend. It is the only place where I pretend that I write only for the mainstream press, even though my work in the gay press is what I'm proudest of.

Seeing my shame reflected in her averted gaze made me understand this for the first time.

Who was I protecting when I closeted myself in the place I grew up? I told myself that I was protecting the people I love, at least a little. I felt that I was saving them from the awkwardness of explanations, the sudden, hushed silence of revelation, the idle locker-room sniping and gossip.

But really, I was protecting myself. I had put a wall around this one false Eden; acting, when I stepped into it, as if I were the same girl who had gone away, the same good girl who had fit in there effortlessly.

This is one of our hardest fights. It is easy to imagine (especially if we weren't born knowing that we were gay) that if we only remade ourselves differently, it would be easy to step back into the heterosexual world.

It is easier to fight against others for acceptance than it is to fight against ourselves. But the truth is that since we are not going to change our sexual orientations, we need to change the world.

We need to be out in places like my white-bread hometown because surveys have shown that the more straight people who know us, the more straight people think we should have equal rights.

We need to live with the small and large discomforts of being out in a straight world so that those after us will not have to battle so hard.

"I think that it should be 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' everywhere when it comes to homosexuality," my sister said. "Why does everyone have to know?"

"They don't have to know," I said. "But we have to tell them—because we can't be less than ourselves." I was silent a moment, than said, "You know, I'm not going to pretend anymore. I'm just going to tell people the truth when they ask."

She started crying for real now, tears silvering her cheeks. "Well," she said tightly, "It's your decision."

"Yes," I said. "It is."

*Jennifer Vanasco is a Chicago-based syndicated columnist and can be reached at vanasco@chicagofreepress.com.*

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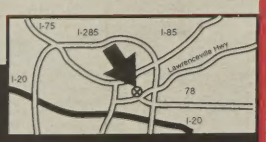


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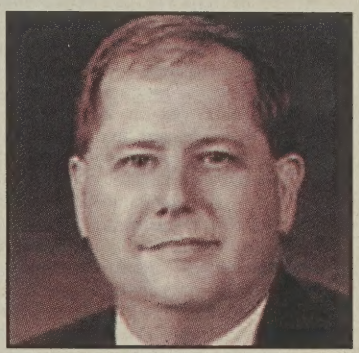
# action! alert

by ANDY COLE

## Pol rains on Charlotte Pride

### Anti-gay commissioner criticizes mayor for support of weekend Pride activities



**Bill James, a county commissioner in Charlotte, criticized the city's Republican mayor this week for issuing a letter in support of an upcoming Gay Pride festival.**

A story previewing Charlotte's upcoming Gay Pride festival in the April 26 edition of *Southern Voice* apparently inspired one of the city's leading gay critics.

The article reported that Charlotte Mayor Patrick McCrory, a Republican, had written a welcome letter to be featured in the city's Gay Pride guide. The festival is set for May 4-6.

Mecklenburg County Commissioner Bill James, long a staunch opponent of gay civil rights, noticed the mayor's involvement and fired off an e-mail criticizing McCrory for his "support of festivals supporting illegal activities."

The reference was to the state's ban on gay sodomy, one of 15 states with similar laws on the books.

James made up part of a conservative block of commissioners—known as the "Gang of Five"—who eliminated funding for the arts in Charlotte after a local theater produced Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Angels in America."

In last week's e-mail, titled "GOP Mayor sents [sic] congrats to Charlotte Homosexual Pride Celebration," James cited the *Southern Voice* sotry and then echoed his familiar anti-gay rhetoric.

"It is surprising that City Government leaders would 'welcome' those that acknowledge their lifestyles are illegal and medical data shows is [sic] unhealthy . It is amazing that a Republican Mayor claiming to be a 'conservative' would do so," James wrote.

The e-mail ended with a refrain similar to ones used by other anti-gay activists: "What's next," he asked. "Charlotte endorsing a pride weekend for prostitutes?"

James could not be reached for comment by press time.

**ACTION!info**

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## Lesbians get no honor in Atlanta mag

In its May 2001 edition, *Atlanta Magazine* ran its fourth consecutive annual special advertising section, "Women Making a Mark," honoring "20 women who are forging new ground, fostering change and making a permanent, positive mark on lives in Atlanta."

But despite the city's large lesbian populations, *Atlanta Magazine's* list failed to include lesbians or any gay organizations.

The list was culled from more than 50 nominations introduced by editors, staff and the public, said Tracy Stuckrath, the magazine's public relations manager

"We support numerous organizations throughout the city, throughout the year. It so happens that in Atlanta, 'Women Making a Mark,' there was not a lesbian organization that was selected for the list this year," Stuckrath said.

Stuckrath said the magazine last year honored Dixon Taylor, an open lesbian who at the time was employed by *Southern Voice*.

"Editorial-wise and sales-wise we don't support one sexual orientation or another. It does not matter to us what sexual orientation someone is," Stuckrath said. "We are not segregating people at all; that is not our point. It was not a conscious decision to do it one way or another."

The magazine is currently accepting nominations for next year.

**ACTION!info**

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*If you know of an issue that needs response or lobbying from* Southern Voice *readers, please e-mail editor@sovo.com or fax it to 404-876-2709.*

# "quote/unquote"

compiled by REX WOCKNER

"I know that's the yuppiest thing imaginable."
—Gay writer Andrew Sullivan to the *Washington Post* on the fact that his beagle went to doggie day care that day, April 19

"If you want to be a writer, learn Latin."
—Lesbian author Rita Mae Brown (right) ("Rubyfruit Jungle") to the *Houston Voice*, April 6

"We have a president who was selected rather than elected. He stole the presidency through family ties, arrogance and intimidation, employing Republican operatives to exercise the tactics of voter fraud by disenfranchising thousands of blacks, elderly Jews and other minorities."
—Barbra Streisand at BarbraStreisand.com

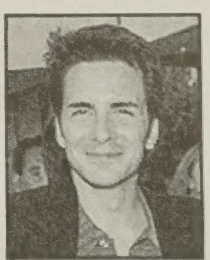
"The last time I was in Chicago with Champions on Ice, I walked into [the popular gay bar] Sidetrack and I was mobbed. People were asking me all kinds of things, mostly about skating, and you know, I love it, because I rarely get a chance to meet new friends."
—Skating champ Rudy Galindo to the *Windy City Times*, April 18

"To be forced back into the heterosexual cage of coupledom [via gay marriage] is not a step forward but a step back into state-imposed definitions of relationship. With all that we have learned, we should be helping our heterosexual brothers and sisters out of their state-defined prisons, not volunteering to join them there."
—Lesbian author Jane Rule, who wrote the book that was made into the classic lesbian film "Desert Hearts," to Toronto's *Xtra!*, April 5

"I love my minivan. I'm thinking now of really souping it up and getting some, like, really hot rims for it. Make it some bitchin' Soccer Mom ride."
—RuPaul (left) to the Phoenix gay newspaper *HeatStroke News*, April 19

"By now we've seen women kissing each other on everything from 'Ally McBeal' to 'Buffy, the Vampire Slayer.' For 'Friends,' the idea seems not only old-hat, it smacks of desperation."
—*New York Post* columnist Adam Buchman, April 26, on the kiss shared by Jennifer Anniston and Wynona Rider on 'Friends'

"We live in a Toronto bubble, working 14 to 15 hours a day. We were just trying to figure out where the grocery store is and how to get there. Last week was our first trip to the states as a group and we felt the impact [of being celebrities now]. How did it feel? Amazing. People come up to me and say, 'I came out to my mother because of your show.'"
—Actress Thea Gill (Lindsay on Showtime's "Queer As Folk") in a March 22 appearance at American University in Washington, D.C.



"People already knew me from 'Talk Soup.' It's a little different now knowing that when someone comes up and says, 'I've seen your show,' they've seen my bare butt—they've seen me naked. That's the peculiar part of it. But they're respectful."
—Actor Hal Sparks (right) (Michael on Showtime's "Queer As Folk") in a March 22 appearance at American University in Washington, D.C.

"I timed it. It's like a 5 1/2-second mouth-to-mouth kiss. We haven't seen anything like this before on network TV. ... This is a huge leap and a huge kiss. We might now start seeing physical affection and romance between other gay characters."
—GLAAD's Scott Seomin on the kiss between two male teens May 1 on TV's Dawson's Creek, to *USA Today*, April 30

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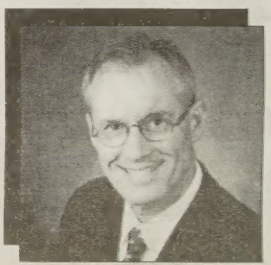

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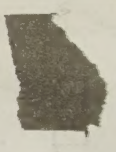

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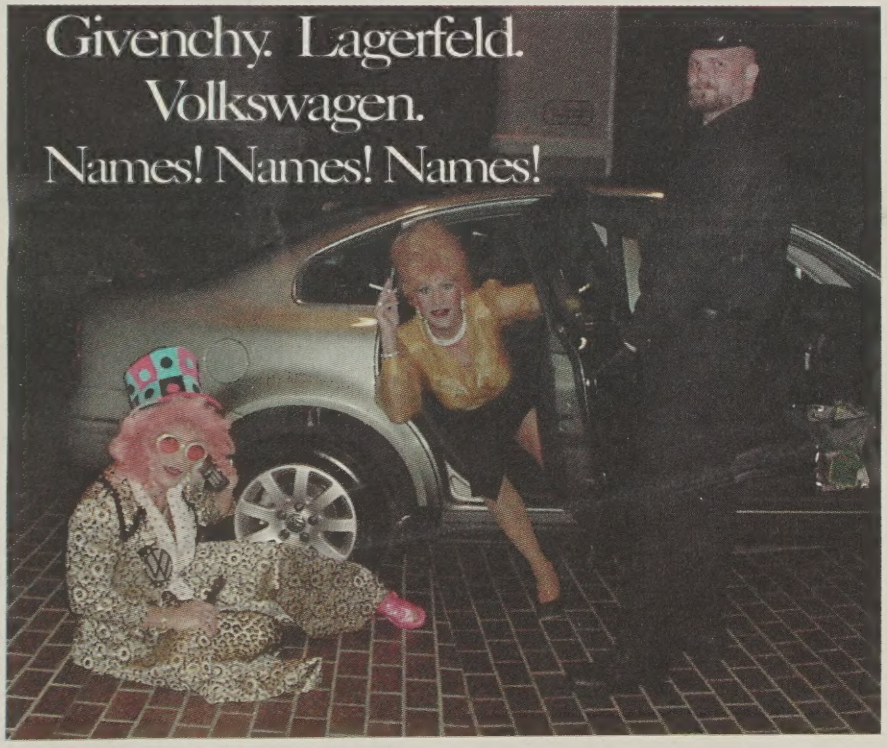


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Armistad Maupin's (right) tale of life in San Francisco during the '70s and '80s comes to Showtime May 6. The stellar cast includes Joel Grey (top), Mary Kay Place (left) and Olympia Dukakis.

INTERVIEW: AUTHOR ARMISTAD MAUPIN

# 'Further Tales' has more to tell

Fans of 'Tales of the City' will find new plot twists in the Showtime movie version of 'Further Tales of the City,' which airs Sundays in May

by ERIN O'BRIANT

Audiences never seem to tire of the tales spun by gay author Armistead Maupin. Since the first installment of "Tales of the City" was published in the *San Francisco Chronicle* 25 years ago, readers have been enthralled by his funny, warm stories of a mismatched group of friends, gay and straight, living in San Francisco in the 1970s and 1980s.

Get ready for more tales coming up in movie version on Showtime in May. Two of Maupin's six "Tales" books have already been made into films, and he's been closely involved in the making of the latest, "Further Tales of the City." Maupin has even beefed the story up a bit to let the talented cast shine.

"There's a new story line in the televised version of 'Further Tales' that involves an unexplained portion of Anna Madrigal's history," Maupin says. "James Lecesne, the other screenwriter, and I realized that the material for Olympia Dukakis, [who plays Madrigal], was extremely skimpy in the novel and we realized we needed to do something that she could sink her teeth into."

But Maupin won't reveal much about the new plot line. "I'd rather not give too much of it away," he explains. "It involves Anna's mother, who's known as Mother Mucca, who runs a brothel.... I was very pleased with the way that story line worked out.

'Anna Madrigal' speaks out
Page 36

"It's very satisfying because it's basically filling in a blank spot, it's not a wild diversion from the original plot," he continues. "It simply explains a part of her life that's never been explained and the inclusion actually strengthens the existing story line."

Rock Hudson fans will get to see the "Tales" character Cage Tyler, who was inspired by the mostly closeted gay movie star, a friend and sometime lover of Maupin's.

Maupin is quick to clarify, though, that he and Hudson never dated. "It was always just a friendship," he says. "We romped a few times the way that gay men sometimes do. But it was never a romance."

Maupin says he is comfortable with the on-screen incarnation of Hudson. "It's an extremely affectionate portrait of Rock, so I don't think he'd have a problem with it," says Maupin.

"It might amaze him to see that we live in a culture where we can now celebrate things that were once done in great secrecy."

Maupin, like his readers and viewers, isn't tired of "Tales." The years of writing experience he's had since he first crafted "Further Tales of the City" have served him well.

"I'll tell you what years of experience will do to you," he laughs. "The real plus about aging is it enables me to inhabit the middle-aged characters more thoroughly. When I first started 'Tales of the City' I regarded those people as beyond the pale."

But just because yet another "Tales" book is being made into a film doesn't mean Maupin is stuck in the past. "In some ways I've moved on," he says, pointing out that he's written non-"Tales" tomes, too, including "Maybe the Moon" and "The Night Listener."

"It's my dream that we'll film all six of my ['Tales of the City'] novels," Maupin says. There's even talk of an upcoming Broadway musical based on the "Tales" books that Maupin says he would help create.

Maupin enjoys keeping a creative hand in the new versions of his written works.

➢ Continued on Page 36

13

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# on screen

FILM, VIDEO & TV REVIEWS

by STEVE WARREN

# Wise beyond his years

## Documentary tells the story of the straight high school student who fought the Boy Scouts

AP

**'Scout's Honor' screens at Emory University May 11. The film examines streaight teenager Steven Cozza's efforts against the Boy Scouts of America's anti-gay policy.**

Steven Cozza turned 16 in March. A California high school sophomore, he listens to punk rock, surfs and runs cross-country.

He hasn't thought much about college but dreams of someday riding a bicycle in the Tour de France. He's rejected his parents' religion (Roman Catholic) and is studying Buddhism.

Sound like a typical teenager? One more thing: Cozza is heterosexual and has done more for the gay rights movement in his 16 years than most of us will if we live to be a hundred.

He co-founded Scouting for All when he was 12 and learned his then-beloved Boy Scouts of America discriminates against gays as members and leaders.

His story is told in Tom Shepard's Sundance-award-winning documentary **SCOUT'S HONOR**, which will have its Southern regional premiere May 11 at Emory University.

Talking by phone from his Petaluma home, Cozza hasn't heard all the details of Steven Spielberg's resignation from the BSA Advisory Council over their discriminatory policy. "Awesome," he says of the filmmaker. "It took courage for him to do that."

This from a youth who has stood up to death threats and the taunts of junior high classmates who assumed he was gay when he went public with his stand.

"At first it was pretty bad," he admits. "I was being called 'fag.' I dealt with it by saying, 'Go ahead and call me that.' I know being gay is normal, just like being heterosexual is normal.

"Things got better when I got to high school. Last year my sister and I started a Gay/Straight Alliance there. Do you know there are Gay/Straight Alliances in over 700 high schools in the country?

"I've been going to Gay Pride parades since I was three," he says, "and my parents taught me all people are equal."

Cozza's had gay friends all his life, he explains. One of his greatest influences was church camp counselor Robert Espindola, who appears in "Scout's Honor."

The idea that Robert couldn't serve as a scout leader if he chose to really pissed Steven off. He wrote a letter to the editor of a local paper in December 1997 after he and his father, an assistant scoutmaster, were forbidden even to raise the issue at a troop meeting.

This led to a petition, now with well over 60,000 signatures, and a Web site where you can sign the petition, read Cozza's letters and speeches, learn about upcoming events and volunteer to help.

Being young, straight and a good scout, Cozza seemed too perfect a spokesperson. "A lot of people accused my dad of forcing me to take this stand," he professes.

While his father instilled values in him and does a lot of work for Scouting for All, it's clear that's not the case. "I make all my decisions in my life," Cozza explains. "My dad can't make me do anything."

With speaking engagements around the country, Cozza's been a busy young man. He spoke before his largest crowd at last year's Millennium March on Washington.

He was unaccustomed to making speeches and giving interviews when he started—but the experience has helped him to be more comfortable in front of a crowd. "I've gotten better," he says modestly. "I'm still not good but I'm getting better."

The film features James Dale and Tim Curran, who raised public awareness by filing suits against the BSA, 10 years apart, for expelling them for being gay; and Dave Rice, who was thrown out at 71, after a lifetime of scouting, for standing with Cozza.

After becoming an Eagle Scout a little over two years—Cozza resigned. "They kicked my dad out," he recalls.

Recently "Scout's Honor" was shown in Cozza's high school. "They loved it," he offers excitedly.

**INFO**

**'Scout's Honor'**
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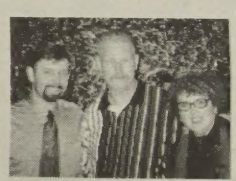

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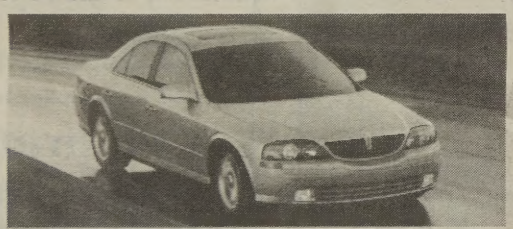

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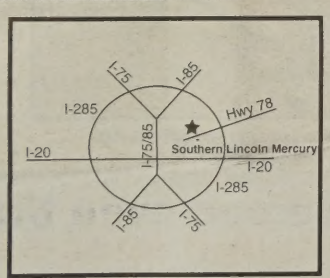


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# out in music

by PATRICK ARENA

# A queer lady sings the blues

## Bluesy vocals and Motown-style backup make this collection of standards a mix of hot nostalgia

**Blues singer Gwen Avery was honored by the Outmusic Awards for her CD 'Sugar Mama.'**

Winner of the Outmusic Award for Outstanding New Recording **GWEN AVERY** is a blues singer in the old tradition. She growls, curls, hisses, and strokes her phrases with the voice of authority and authenticity.

Her new CD **SUGAR MAMA** is loaded with fun tracks that are elevated by her tight group of musicians. Jules Broussard on tenor saxophone sounds like hot honey that drips from each cut that he plays on.

Good ol' Motown style backup singers also enhance this nostalgic set. Avery and company succeed on sprinkling a few well-known standard blues tunes in the mix.

"The Thrill is Gone" and "Georgia On My Mind" establish the traditional aspects of this album while the Nina Simone numbers show that Avery can hold her own with the great singers of the past.

"Sugar In My Bowl" is more tongue in cheek that the original. Lets just say that Avery lets us know exactly where she wants that sugar to go.

For the most part, Avery's original compositions fall into the two basic categories of sexy-humorous and socially conscious. "Sad Song" is an anthem to the closet and the lack of love in the world.

Like all good blues it gives a sense of relief through the release of the emotion in song. Her light scat/riffing out at the end lends just the right touch of frustration.

**RICHARD ISEN**'s music is driven by the rich piano hues that he laces through his latest album, **LET IT FALL**. The piano is his foundation and he has developed a sound that is at once unique and familiarly comforting.

It's a rolling cascade that is full of lush jazz chords—a mood that is consistent throughout the album. Isen's voice is a wonderful instrument that is as melancholy as the sound of an English horn or seagulls in the distance.

A remarkable sound that penetrates your heart, his subtle arrangements caress his voice and never overwhelm with too much bravura.

As much as Isen's piano work and voice are of primary importance here—his lyrics tend to be more abstract. Some of the best cuts are "Blue Window," "The Only Thing" and "The Way the Waves Come."

In March 2001 the GLBT Songwriters Association handed out the group's first **OUTMUSIC AWARDS** in honor of their 10th anniversary.

With members from all around the country, a large percentage are working musicians on a path to creating real music about the queer experience. Many of the artists involved are very clear about their identities within the lyrics of their songs.

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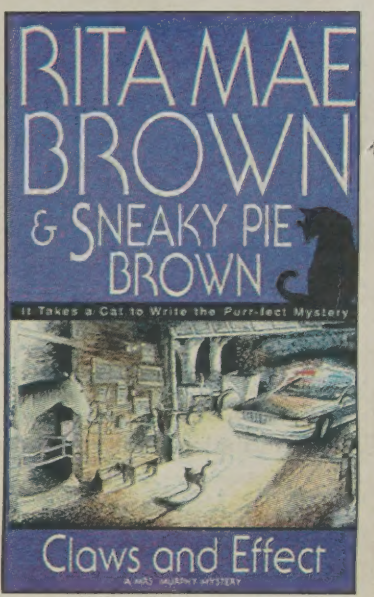
# Mrs. Murphy solves another mystery

## Rita Mae Brown's latest effort is full of her trademark wit—but it's not up to her usual standards

by JACQUELINE DEAN




Rita Mae Brown and her tabby Sneaky Pie Brown have produced another murder mystery. Once again the intrepid postmistress, her menagerie and the stalwart citizens of that bastion of southern society, Crozet, Va., (the murder capital of the South), are faced with another string of mysterious murders.

Of course—only the amazing prowess of Mrs. Murphy and her companions can solve this rash of murders that have set the locals afire and left the hospital in a tizzy. Sadly, the best that can be said for Brown's latest mystery endeavor, **CLAWS AND EFFECT**, is that it doesn't feature a gay homicidal sociopath as the killer.

> In 'Claws and Effect,' queers are spared the shadow of evil, but her readers aren't spared a tired plot.

In her first Mrs. Murphy mystery, "Wish You Were Here," and in "Pawing Through the Past," which preceded her latest effort, Brown cast deranged gay or transsexual men as the villains. In the former, a gay man explains his mutilation of his victims as an "artist's touch."

In the latter, a revenge-seeking transsexual classmate returns to get even and seeks to do in the heroine because, as she said, "I just feel like killing someone else."

Of course, just because Rita Mae Brown is an out feminist lesbian doesn't mean she can only write stories about gay men and lesbians or that she must always portray them in the most flattering light possible.

In "Claws and Effect" Brown's heroine is a woman in her 30s who lives alone on a farm with her animals. Mary Haristeen—her given name in the book—is actually known affectionately as "Harry" amongst her friends. She resists the allure of a world-famous male model living next door and has to be forced by her friends into anything even resembling feminine attire.

She has so much sexual tension with the town bombshell she could start a bonfire. Is Brown dwelling on stereotypes here?

Brown—either completely naive and clueless or the world's greatest tease—has kept lesbian readers in the dark guessing when and if she would "out" Harry. The latest two installments feature a growing romance with her ex-husband—seemingly putting that story line to rest.

In "Claws and Effect," queers are spared the shadow of evil, but her readers aren't spared a tired plot. Too wrought with fox-hunting (though Brown goes out of her way to point out the fox isn't killed, just a little inconvenienced), "Claws and Effect" produces large chunks that only Virginia society fox hunters could love or begin to understand.

For the rest of us, it's plodding and drags down the story. After teasing the reader with motives for a murder ripped out of our worst fears and daily headlines, Brown delivers an anti-climactic finish that will leave the reader yawning or proclaiming, "Is that it?"

Of course, true Mrs. Murphy fans (as I confess I am) will eat this book up with a spoon. It's filled with Brown's trademark wit and is a nice bit of brain candy.

It's not a bad way to spend an afternoon, but definitely not up to Brown's usual standards.

**INFO**

**'Claws and Effect'**
Rita Mae Brown &
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**Atlanta Church of Religious Science.** Sundays, 10:30 am. Rich Auditorium of the Arts Center, 1280 Peachtree Street. 404-355-3767

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**Christ Covenant MCC.** Sundays, worship 11 am; Queer Spirit, 7 pm. Wednesdays, dinner and prayer, 6 pm, choir rehearsal and ministry teams, 7 pm. 109 Hibernia Ave. 404-373-2933

**Circle of Friends.** Tuesdays, 7 pm. Group meets to share personal stories of faith and spirituality. 770-937-5035

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**Circle of Love Fellowship of Atlanta.** Sundays, 10 am. Wednesdays, Bible study, 7:30 pm. 778 Rays Rd. Ste. 108. 770-469-6419

**Clifton Presbyterian Church.** Sundays, 11 am. Wednesdays, Bible study 7:30 pm. 369 Connecticut Ave. 404-373-3253

**Congregation Bet Haverim.** Second Fridays, vegetarian/dairy potluck dinner 7:30 pm. All other Fridays, Shabat Service, 7:30 pm. Sundays, 9:30-11:45 am. Atlanta Friends Meeting House, 701 W Howard Ave. 404-607-0054 or CBH@mindspring.com

**Episcopal Church of the Epiphany.** Sundays, 8:45 and 11:15 am, 6 pm. 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-373-8338.

**First Existentialist Congregation.** Sundays, Celebration of life, 11 am. Full Moon Rituals. 404-378-5570 or e-cong@mindspring.com

**First MCC of Atlanta.** Sundays, worship 11 am; series of workshops on spiritual and self-help topics, 6:30 pm Wednesdays, worship 7:30 pm. 1379 Tullie Rd. 404-325-4143

**Friends Worshipping Together Through Christ.** Sundays, 11 am. Days Inn Conference Rm. 239, 5990 Western Hills Dr., Norcross. Pastor Dana Worsham, 770-934-9452

**Gentle Spirit Christian Church.** Sundays, 7 pm. 404-522-1444

**Inman Park United Methodist Church.** Sundays, 10:55 am. 404-522-9322

**Integrity Ministry.** The gay and lesbian ministry of the Episcopal church. Second Fridays, 7 pm. All Saints' Episcopal Church, Atlanta. 404-642-3183.

**Marietta/Kennesaw Mountain Church of Religious Science.** Sundays, 10:30 am. 770-656-8467

**Meditations for the Millennium.** Tuesdays, 7 pm. Introductory workshop in Eastern philosophies. 404-627-8708

**Metaphysical Group.** Mondays. Come meet your spiritual family! 404-250-7775

**New Church at Unity Midtown.** Sundays, 11 am. 404-874-1937

**New Covenant Community Church.** Sundays, 6 pm. Atlanta's only gay and lesbian friendly Charismatic/Pentecostal church meets in Virginia-Highlands Baptist Church sanctuary. 404-881-6336. www.NewCovenantAtlanta.com

**North Point Church of Religious Science.** Sundays, 10:30am. Homewood Suites, Davis Dr. 770-569-8601

**Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation.** Sundays, 10:30 am. 770-955-1408

**Oakhurst Baptist Church.** "Every member a minister." Sundays, 11 am. 222 East Lake Drive, Decatur. 404-378-3225. www.oakhurstbaptist.org

**Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church.** First Sundays, combined worship 10 am. All but first Sundays, contemporary worship 9 am, traditional worship, 11 am. 404-627-2216

**Pilgrimage United Church of Christ.** Sundays, worship 10 am. Wednesdays, casual, alternative worship 7 pm. 3755 Sandy Plains Rd. 770-971-0007

**Rameshori Buddhist Center.** Meditations for a Peaceful Mind. Tue & Thur, 7:30-9pm. 2531 Briarcliff Road. Ste #109. 404-321-7737. www.rameshori.com

**Redefined Faith Worship Center.** Third Sundays, 11 am. GSU Student University Center, corner Gilmer and Courtland Sts. 743 Virginia Ave. 404-872-2133

**Snellville United Methodist Church.** Sundays, New Freedom Fellowship for Recovering Addicts, 11 am. 770-929-8505 or 770-484-6346

**St. Aelred's Parish Ecumenical Catholic Church.** Saturdays, Vigil Mass 5:30 pm. Virginia Highland Baptist Church basement chapel, 743 Virginia Ave. 404-508-9128

**St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church**—Sundays, 8 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm. 1790 LaVista Rd. 404-634-3336

**St Luke's Episcopal Church.** Sundays, 8 am, 9 am, 11:15 am, with Holy Communion. 404-873-7600

**St, Mark United Methodist Church.** Sundays, worship 9 am and 11:15 am. Wednesday dinner, 6:15 pm, program 7 pm. Corner of Peachtree and 5th. 404-873-2636

**St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.** Sundays, 8:30 am, 10:30 am Holy Eucharist. 4755 North Peachtree Road. 770-455-6523, www.stpat.net.

**Trinity Church of Religious Science.** Sundays, 11 am. 430 W. Trinity Place. 404-296-6064

**Trinity United Methodist Church.** Sundays, 10:45 am. 404-659-6236

**United Church of Christ-Central Congregational.** Sunday school 10 am; Sunday services 9 & 11 am. 2676 Clairmont Rd. NE Atlanta 30329-2741. 404-633-4505

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta.** Sundays, 9:30 and 11:15 am. 1194 Cliff Valley Way (off I-85 N Access Road). 404-634-5134.

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett County.** Sundays, 11 am. 770-717-7913

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marietta.** Sundays, All-inclusive service, 10:30 am. 770-528-9542

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of North Metro Atlanta.** Sundays, 9:45, 11:30 am. 11420 Crabapple Rd. 770-992-3949

**Unity Fellowship of Christ Church.** Sundays, 3 pm. 404-752-5030

**Virginia-Highland Baptist Church.** Sundays, Liturgical worship with Holy Communion, 11 am. 404-873-1355

## louisiana

### new orleans

**First Unitarian Universalist Church.** Sundays 10:30 am. 5212 S. Claiborne Ave. 504-866-9010

**Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus.** Sundays, 11 am. Wednesdays, bible study 7 pm. 3151 Dauphine St. 504-944-9836

**Jewish Family Services.** Sympathetic counseling and spiritual advising. 3330 W Esplanade, Ste 600. 504-831-8475

**MCC of Greater New Orleans**—Sundays, 11 am. 1128 St. Roch Ave. 504-945-5390

**The Old Catholic Church.** Sacramental services; same-sex unions. Call for times. 103 Brunswick Ct. 504-433-5912. old_catholic.tripod.com

**St. Mark's United Methodist Church.** Sundays, 9:30 am. Weekdays, after-school program 3-6:30 pm. 1130 N Rampart. 504-529-1681

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church.** Sundays, 9 am. Unction with Anointing first Sunday of each month. 120 West Prosper St., Chalmette. 504-271-3844

**Tau House Franciscans.** Sundays, mass 4:15 pm. 1029 Governor Nicholls St. 504-529-3569

**Temple Sinai.** House of prayer for all. Fri. call for times; Sat. 10:15 am. 6227 St. Charles Ave. 504-861-3693

**Unitarian Universalist Community Church.** Sundays 11 am. 6690 Fleur de Lis Dr.

## north carolina

### asheville

**Cathedral of All Souls.** Sundays, 8, 9, 11:15 am. 3 Angle St. 828-274-2681

**St. Joan of Arc.** Second Thursdays, anointing of the sick and fellowship 7 pm. 919 Haywood Rd. 828-252-3151

**MCC Asheville.** Sundays, 6:30 pm, Wednesdays, Bible Study 6:30 pm, Choir Practice at 7:30 pm. 420 Swannanoa River Road. MCCASHE@aol.com, www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/6701/

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Asheville.** Sundays, 9:30, 11:15 am. 1 Edwin Pace. 828-254-6001


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# religion news

### PA community rallies to gay-owned business after pastor condemns it

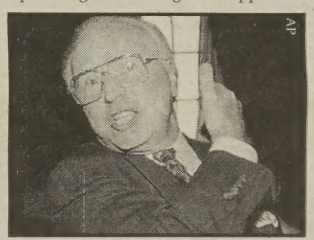
NORTH EAST, Pa.—A lesbian-owned restaurant is slowly recovering from the economic damage inflicted on it since a pastor asked his congregation to stop supporting the bed and breakfast because it is gay-owned, the *Erie News Times* reporter. But since the newspaper published a front-page account on April 22 of how owners Patricia Graham and Danielle Hazen have struggled to keep the restaurant and weekly teen dances open, they have been flooded with hundreds of calls and reservations for lunch and dinner. Earlier this year, Rev. Patrick Kennedy twice spoke to his congregation of about 600 at the First Baptist Church of North East about the restaurant, urging them to stay away. Area religious leaders have also rallied support for the women, including a May 18 luncheon at their restaurant. "After giving it some thought and prayer, I felt we needed to put the prayer into action. I decided to call around to different clergy and see if we couldn't put something together to support the women by going out, hopefully en masse to show our support," said Rev. Russell Shuluga, an Erie minister.

### MN Lutheran church defies rules, ordains non-celibate lesbian minister

ST. PAUL, Minn.—More than 1,000 people watched and cheered April 29 as a Minnesota Lutheran church ordained an open lesbian in a committed relationship as its minister, defying the rules of the national Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* reported. Rev. Paul Tidemann, assisted by four Lutheran bishops from as far away as Sweden, ordained Anita Hill as minister of the St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church. "The last time I checked, the grace of God left no one out," Rev. Michael Cobbler, who served as preacher for the service, said in his sermon. Since the national church rules require an openly gay minister to be celibate, St. Paul-Reformation will likely face discipline from St. Paul Synod Bishop Mark Hanson.

### Congress tackles Bush's proposed expansion of 'charitable choice'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Debate continues to be heated in Congress over President Bush's faith-based initiative. The plan would expand "charitable choice," a provision that allows religious groups that run both secular and religious programs to compete for government grants. Opponents argue that the measure will support discrimination based on religious practice and allow groups that receive government grants to reject applicants who are gay or who drink alcohol on their off hours. "It's very hard to justify creating a lower standard of civil rights protection in a religious group when they receive federal funding," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman, who has thus far supported the president's initiative.. The effort is rolling in the House, where a Judiciary subcommittee held the first hearing on the issue last week. Meanwhile, gay groups objected to the fact that two anti-gay religious leaders—Rev. Lou Sheldon and former Green Bay Packer Reggie White—have been designated as advisers to a Republican summit of religious leaders who support the plan.



**Gay opponents of President Bush's faith-based initiative have criticized the inclusion of anti-gay Rev. Lou Sheldon as part of a GOP advisory panel on the issue.**

### Sixth Episcopal church in CO defects to conservative group over gays

DENVER (AP)—Another Colorado congregation has decided to leave the Episcopal Church USA because of the group's pro-gay attitudes. "We are very distressed over the direction of the church," said Rev. Phil Eberhart, who resigned April 29 as pastor of St. George's Episcopal Church. He said he expects up to 100 members to join him in the formation of a new church, the Resurrection Anglican Fellowship. That makes six churches that have left the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado to join the Anglican Mission in America, which is a nationwide movement that objects to the American church's support for the ordination of gay clergy. Eberhart said he met with Bishop Jerry Winterrowd in January to say he also was poised to leave the Episcopal Church, which he believes "has left the moorings of Scripture." Eberhart said Winterrowd disagreed that conflicts are serious. "His position was that it would be best to ignore those issues and get on with the next ministry," Eberhart said.

### Anti-gay views don't slow growth of Southern Baptist Convention

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Membership in the Southern Baptist Convention, the nation's largest Protestant denomination, climbed to record levels in 2000, reaching nearly 16 million despite controversies over the church's heightened conservatism and anti-gay views. "We credit our evangelism efforts for the growth. Sharing our faith across the world has helped us reach more people," SBC spokesperson Todd Starnes said. Membership is up despite controversy that erupted last summer at the denomination's annual meeting in which delegates approved a reworked "Baptist Faith & Message," the church's doctrinal platform. The message says the Bible is without error; opposes "all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography" as well as mercy killing, abortion and female ministers, and instructs wives to submit to their husbands. The message caused former President Jimmy Carter to sever ties with the organization. Mel White, leader of the gay spiritual group Soulforce, plans to protest the Southern Baptist's annual meeting next month in New Orleans.

*—From staff and wire reports*

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## alabama

### birmingham

**1-800-Therapist.** For free referrals to licensed mental health professionals in the Birmingham area.

**Birmingham AIDS Outreach Ongoing Support Programs.** Individual counseling, "buddy brigade" program and weekly support groups. Polly Kellar, 205-322-4197 ext. 11

**Brother to Brother.** For HIV-positive men who have sex with men. Birmingham AIDS Outreach. 205-322-4197 ext. 16

**Intervention for African-American HIV positive men.** 3rd & 4th Thursdays, 6-10 pm. Jefferson County AIDS in Minorities. 205-326-8980

**Live & Let Live AA.** Fridays, 6 pm; Sundays, 6 pm; Wednesdays, 7 pm. 205-595-2061

**Rainbow Youth.** Sundays. Call for time. Youth under 21 welcome. Don, 205-324-9893, ALRainbowyouth@aol.com

**Support for Families/Loved Ones of people with HIV.** Wednesdays, 1 pm-2:30 pm. Birmingham AIDS Outreach. Polly Kellar, 205-322-4197 ext. 11

**Support for HIV-Positive Women.** Tuesdays, 1 pm-2:30 pm. Birmingham AIDS Outreach. Polly Kellar, 205-322-4197 ext 11

**Support for those with HIV/AIDS.** Mondays, 1 pm-2:30 pm. Wednesdays, 6:30-8 pm. Birmingham AIDS Outreach. Polly Kellar, 205-322-4197 ext. 11

### mobile

**Gay Support Group.** Contact USA Psychological Clinic for a screening. 334-460-7149

**Pink Triangle AA Group.** Thursdays & Saturdays, 7 pm. Cornerstone MCC of Mobile, 2201 Government St. 334-476-4621

### montgomery

**Men's Support Group.** 3rd Thursday, 1 pm. Montgomery AIDS Outreach, 820 West South Blvd. 334-280-3349

**Montgomery PFLAG.** First Friday. Unitarian Universalist Church, 54280 Lawn Rd., Montgomery

**Women's Support Group.** 2nd Thursday, 1 pm. Montgomery AIDS Outreach, 820 West South Blvd. 334-280-3349

## florida

### pensacola

**Rainbow AA.** Mondays & Fridays, 7:30 pm. Holy Cross MCC, 415 N. Alcaniz St. 850-433-8528

## georgia

### athens

**GLBT Teen Support Group.** Saturdays, 2 pm. Presbyterian Student Center. 706-546-4611, or stock@negia.net

**HIV/AIDS Support Groups.** Monthly meetings, free childcare and meal provided. AIDS Coalition of Northeast Georgia. 706-542-AIDS

### atlanta

**20-Something.** First Sunday, 6:30 pm. For persons 20-30. Innovox Lounge, 699 Ponce de Leon. 404-523-7500

**AIDS Information & Referral Line.** Monday through Friday, 10 am to 5 pm. AIDS Survival Project hotline for people living with HIV/AIDS. 404-874-7926

**Alcoholics Anonymous.** Tuesdays, 7 pm. Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church, corner Woodland & Delaware Aves. 404-627-2216

**Alcoholics Anonymous.** Tuesdays, 8 pm. Ga Baptist Medical Center's Newton House, 320 Parkway Dr. 800-651-8191

**Atlanta Gender Explorations.** First Saturday, 5-8 pm (for members); Third Saturday, call for time (for newcomers). Support group. Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church, 1071 Delaware Ave SE. 770-517-0265

**Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative Groups.** Weekly meetings. Group for lesbians with cancer, their partners and loved ones; also a bereavement group. 1530 DeKalb Ave., Suite A. 404-688-2524 or alci-atlanta@mindspring.com

**Bereavement.** Tuesdays, 7-9 pm. Group offering a safe, nonjudgmental place where people are encouraged to experience their grief, tears, anger and to tell their own story. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., Ste. 605. 404-589-9040

**BiNature.** Third Tuesday, 7-9 pm. Bisexual/bi-friendly discussion and support group. First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Drive, Atlanta, GA 30307. 404-256-8992, or binet.home.mindspring.com

**BiNet Atlanta.** First Friday, 8 pm. Support and social group for bisexuals. Innovox Lounge, 699 Ponce de Leon. Call to confirm meeting. www.mindspring.com/~binet/. 404-256-8992

**Chi-Atsu Theraputic Body Work/Massage**. Reiki/shiatsu combination therapy. Ongoing sessions at Private Midtown studio. Donation. For appointments call Ron, 404-876-2542 or 404-819-9925

**Double Trouble in Recovery.** Wednesdays, 8 pm. Peer-led 12-step group for individuals living with HIV and dealing with mental health related challenges and substance abuse issues, past or present. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., Ste. 605. 404-589-9040

**Folami.** Second Saturday, Noon (general meeting) & 1:30 pm (topic-based support group). For black lesbian and bisexual women. AID Atlanta, 1438 W Peachtree St. 404-284-3053, or folamiatl@aol.com

**Friends, Family, Partners & Volunteers Support Group.** 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 pm. AID Gwinnett, 725 Scenic Hwy, Lawrenceville. 770-962-8396

**Friends for Life.** Second & Fourth Saturdays, 2:00pm-4:00pm.. For African-American men In The Life. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., Ste. 605. 404-589-9040

**HIV & STD testing.** Monday to Thursday, weekly. 5:30-9:30 pm. Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-523-7500.

**HIV-positive African-American Men's Support Group.** Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30. AIDS Education Services for Minorities. 404-753-2900

**HIV-positive Women 45 & Older Support Group**. Thursdays, 11 am-noon. Shariffa Dempsey 404-885-6800

**Infected/Affected Support Group.** Tuesdays, 6:30 pm. Absolutely Positive+ Inc. 770-642-6646

**Infected Men's Group.** Mondays, 7 pm. Absolutely Positive+ Inc. 770-642-6646

**Link Counseling Center Cancer Support Group.** Mondays, 7:00-8:30 pm. Ongoing for cancer patients and families. 348 Mt. Vernon Hwy. 404-256-9797.

**Living Well With HIV.** Group for persons with HIV interested in self-improvement as they learn to live well with HIV. Positive Impact. Those interested should call Bryce Smith, 404-589-9040 ext. 307

**Living with HIV & Addiction.** 2nd & 4th Mondays, 7 pm. Absolute Wellness, the BRAC Center. Lindbergh Plaza, Ste. A-100. 404-264-9011

**Long Term Survivors.** For persons infected five of more years with HIV. Positive Impact. Those interested should call Bryce Smith, 404-589-9040 ext. 307

**People with AIDS.** 4th Monday, 7 pm. AIDGwinnett. First United Methodist Church of Covington, 1113 Conyers St., Covington. 770-962-8396

**Positively Living Support Group.** Mondays, 7:30 pm. AIDS Survival Project, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-874-7926

**Meditations for the New Millenium.** Tuesdays, 7 pm. Group for persons affected by HIV on many different styles of meditation. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., Ste. 605. 404-627-8708

**Men's Discussion Group.** Every Thursday, 7 pm. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 6th Floor. 404-523-7500

**New Beginnings.** 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 6 pm. Support for the newly HIV diagnosed. Absolute Wellness, the BRAC Center. Lindbergh Plaza, Ste. A-100. 404-264-9011

**Potter's House.** Mondays, 12 noon. Day program. Absolutely Positive+ Inc. 770-642-6646

**PWA Support Group.** Tuesdays, 7:30 pm. AIDGwinnett, 725 Scenic Hwy, Lawrenceville. 770-962-8396

**Risk Reduction.** On-going group exploring issues of substance abuse and how it relates to unhealthy patterns of interactions and behavior. Positive Impact. Those interested should call Mollie, 404-589-9040 ext. 304

**Sex & Relationship Addiction Recovery Groups.** Gay meetings Monday and Wednesday evenings. Mixed meetings daily throughout metro Atlanta. 404-239-8048, www.sca-recovery.org

**Women Living with HIV.** Group for women living with HIV, focusing on issues including relationships, family, and health. Lunch and tokens provided. Those interested should call Sabrina, 404-589-9040 ext. 302

**Women's Discussion Group.** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7 pm. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 6th floor. 404-523-7500

**Women's HIV/AIDS Support Group.** Tuesdays, 5:15 pm. Closed confidential group, limited spaces. AIDS Survival Project, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-874-7926

**Yoga & Meditation for HIV/AIDS.** Thursdays, 5:00-6:15 pm. Donation requested. Jaya Devi Yoga Studio, 312C N Highland Ave. 404-688-6757

### columbus

**Chattahoochee Valley PFLAG**. 2nd Monday, 7:30-9:30 pm. 1442 Double Churches Road. (334)291-5153 7:30-9:30 pm or PFLAGpress@aol.com

### macon

**AIDS Support Group.** Wednesdays, 6 pm. Diversity House Project, 2020 Ingleside Ave. Open to those living with HIV/AIDS, their family and friends.

**Lambda AA Support Group.** Fridays, 7 pm. free. Rikki 912-742-0134

**PFLAG** 2nd Sunday, 2 pm. Open to the public. 912-328-0497

**REACH OUT Breast Cancer Support Group.** 3rd Tuesday, 7 pm. Focal Point Women, 4075 Elnora Dr. All sexual orientations welcome. Free. 912-474-0000

### savannah

**Alcoholics Anonymous.** Wednesdays, 8 pm. First City Network office. 912-233-4255

**Any Lengths Group AA.** Sundays, 7 pm. Recovery Place. 912-233-4255

**CASE.** Weekly meetings of HIV/AIDS support group. Richard Pfister, 912-659-AIDS.

**Gay Youth Group.** 3rd Thursday, 7 pm. First City Network office, third floor. Gene 800-484-1913, pin 5353

**HIV/AIDS Support Group.** Mondays, 5:30 pm. Phoenix Place. 912-231-0123

**HIV-positive Substance Abuse**. Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9 am-noon. Phoenix Place. 912-231-0123.

**HIV-positive Substance Abuse**. Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9-12 thursday

**Project Azuka.** Thursdays, 10:30 am. Women's HIV-positive support group. Call Pandora Singleton, 912-233-6733

## louisiana

### baton rouge

**HIV Support Group.** 1st Tuesday, 4-6 pm. Peer-led discussions for people who are HIV-positive and their friends. Lambda Center, 1733 Florida Blvd. 225-346-0670

**HIV Testing & Counseling.** 2nd Tuesday, 4-6 pm. Free and confidential. Lambda Center, 1733 Florida Blvd. 225-346-0670

**Spectrum on Support.** Sunday, 7 pm. A support group for gays and others affected by homophobia. Women's Center, LSU Campus, 345 Hatcher. rainbow@lsu.edu

### new orleans

**Brother 2 Brother.** Thursdays, 1 pm. Support group for HIV-positive African-American males. Screening required. Call 504-821-2601

**Heterosexual HIV-positive Support Group.** Every other Wednesday, 5:45 pm. Screening required. Call 504-821-2601

**HIV Partners Support Group.** Mondays, 6 pm. For people who have a spouse or partner with HIV/AIDS. Screening required. 504-821-2601

**HIV-positive Men's Group.** Wednesday, 7 pm. Support group for HIV-positive males. Screening required. Call 504-821-2601

**HIV-positive River Parishes.** A NO-AIDS Task Force support program for clients in the River Parishes. Screening required. Call 504-821-2601

**Lesbian Relationship Therapy.** Mondays. Call for time. Relationship Therapy Center, 620 N. Carrollton Ave. 504-488-9924

**Long Term Survivors' Group.** Every other Wednesday, 5 pm. Screening required. Call 504-821-2601

**Treatment Information & Support Group.** 1st Tuesday, 5:30 pm. Screening required. Call 504-821-2601

**Women's Group.** 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 5:30 pm. Screening required. Call 504-821-2601

## north carolina

### asheville

**ARNGLE**. 2nd Thursday, 6:30 pm. Asheville Religious Network for Gay and Lesbian Equality. Trinity Episcopal Church. Henry Hansen, 828-298-8805

**B-GLAAD**. Thursdays, 8 pm. Bisexuals, Gays, Lesbians and Allies Associated for Diversity, Appalachian State University. East Hall. Faculty advisor Mary Ballard, 704-262-2714, BGLAD@Applestate.edu

**Dual Recovery Anonymous.** Mondays, 7 pm. For people with a dual diagnosis of chemical dependency and an emotional or psychiatric illness. Room 401, 445 Biltmore Ave. 828-255-3105

**Family & Friends Support Group.** 1st & 3rd Thursdays. For HIV-positive people and their families, friends, caregivers and significant others. WNCAP, 828-252-7489

**Free HIV Testing.** Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4 pm. Buncombe Co. Health Department. By appointment. Special after-hours testing available Monday and Thursday. 828-250-5105

**Free STDs/HIV Testing.** WNC Community Health Services. Counseling and treatment also available. No appointment necessary. 10 Ridgelawn (off Haywood Rd.). 828-285-0622

**Gay & Bi Fathers**. 1st & 3rd Mondays. Support group for gay men and partners who have fathered children. You do not have to be out. Call for meeting place and times. Bob, 828-230-0893

**Gay & Lesbian Community Ministries.** Fridays, 8 pm. For anyone with a drinking problem. All Soul's Church. Joan Marshall 828-277-7815

**HIV/AIDS Support in Forest City**. Tuesdays, 2 pm. Carolina Community Care. Program of support and information for those dealing with HIV or AIDS and related issues. Tri-City Mall, Forest City. 828-245-3575

**Lambda AA.** Fridays, 8 pm. Open discussion. All Souls Episcopal Church. 828-254-8539

**PFLAG.** 2nd Saturdays, 2 pm-4pm. All Souls Cathedral Library. 828-277-7815

**Phoenix Transgender Support.** Saturdays, 7:30 pm. Group for transgendered people, transsexuals, crossdressers and anyone wishing to explore his/her androgyny. 828-669-3889

**Proud Journey Al-Anon.** Friday, 8 pm. All Soul's Church. 828-298-1610

## mississippi

### biloxi

**AIDS Support Group.** Mondays. Call for time. South Mississippi AIDS Task Force, 221 Rue Petit Bois, Building D. 228-385-1214

## tennessee

### knoxville

**Eating Disorders Support Group**. 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 6 pm-7 pm. Knox-area task force on eating disorders. Second Presbyterian Church, room 205. 865-671-6159

**Gay Gratitude AA**. Fridays, 7 pm. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church. 864-523-4176

**Hepatitis C Support Group.** 1st Thursday, 7 pm-8 pm. Child care available upon request. University of Tennessee Medical Center Laboratory Annex Building. Shirley, 865-690-1546 or Faye, 865-986-5982

**HIV Support Group.** An informal gathering of men and women who share supportive information and experiences about surviving HIV related illnesses. Hope Center, Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center. 865-541-3767

**PFLAG**. 4th Thursday, 7 pm. Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Paul or Nancy, 865-947-7366; help line, 865-531-2539; knoxpflag@hotmail.com; www.korrnet.org/knxpflag

**Swans**. 3rd Friday. E-mail for time & location. Support group for transgendered persons. E-mail for locations and times. Windi_knight@yahoo.com or deanna_lf@yahoo.com

**Tranquility Lesbian Support Group.** Tuesdays, 7 pm. Positively Living Center. Lydia GoodlyDif1@aol.com

### memphis

**24-hour Gay & Lesbian Switchboard**. 901-324-GAYS

**ACOA**. Sundays. Call for time. Adult Children of Alcoholics. 6 pm. Open discussion. 901-276-7379

**AIDS Consortium**. 3rd Tuesday, 3 pm-4 pm. United Way Building, Union Ave.

**Crisis Center**. 24 hours. 901-274-7477

**Crossroads**. 1st & 2nd Friday. E-mail for time and location. African-American gay men's motivation, support and social group. Conrad R. Pegues, crpegues@aol.com

**GLBT Parents Support Group**. 3rd Thursday, 7 pm. Bring kids; child care provided. Holy Trinity Community Church. Rita, 901-327-4783

**Into The Light Women's AA**. 3rd Thursday, 7 pm. Sundays, 12 noon. Open discussion, smoke-free. Memphis Lambda Center. 901-276-7379

**Open Heart AA.** Tuesdays, 6 pm. Thursdays, 5:30 pm. Open discussion, smoke-free. 901-276-7379

**Lesbians with Breast Cancer**. Tuesdays, 7 pm-8 pm. YWCA, 766 S. Highland.

**PFLAG**. 2nd Thursdays, 7 pm-8 pm. Prescott Baptist Church. thursday

**Phoenix AA**. Saturdays, 8 pm. Sundays, 8 pm. Monday, 8 pm. Tuesday, 8 pm. Thursdays, 8 pm. Discussion. Memphis Lambda Center. 901-276-7379

**Seriously Sober**. Fridays, 8 pm. Open discussion, smoke-free. 901-276-7379

**Support programs.** Wellness Center at HTCC. Support program for gay parents and for married men dealing with sexual identity. 901-754-9423 or 901-320-9376

**YWCA Encore**. Wednesdays, 10 am-noon. Support group for lesbians with breast cancer.

### nashville

**Al-Anon.** Tuesdays, 6:30 pm. Support group for gay men and lesbians affected by others' drinking. Unitarian Church Morhan House, 1808 Woodmont Ave.

**Alternatives (Alcoholics Anonymous).** Thursdays, 7:30 pm. Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men. Belmont United Methodist Church, 2007 Acklen Ave.

**Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group.** Fridays, 7 pm. Belmont United Methodist, 2007 Acklen Ave.

**Closed AA for Gay Men & Lesbians.** Mondays, 8 pm. Lambda Group. Unitarian Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd.

**Gay & Lesbian Switchboard.** Daily 6 pm-9 pm. 615-297-0008.

**Gay/Lesbian Addictions Anonymous.** Wednesdays, 7:30 pm. Belmont United Methodist Church. 2007 Acklen Ave.

**Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Co-Dependants Anonymous.** Wednesdays, 7 pm. The Center. 703 Berry Road. 615-297-0008

**NORMAL**. Last Monday. Call for time. Nashville Organization Representing Married and Formerly Married Lesbians. MCC Nashville. 615-297-0008

**One in Teen.** Wednesdays, 6:30 pm. Support group for lesbian, gay and bisexual teens. 615-297-0008

**PFLAG.** 3rd Tuesday, 7 pm. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Cohn Adult Learning Center. 4805 Park Ave. 615-366-0888 or 615-662-0332

**Positive Voice.** 4th Sunday. Nashville Cares, Cummins Station, 209 10th Ave, STE 160. 615-259-4866 ext. 128.

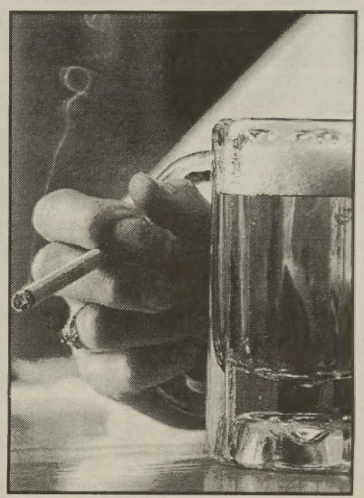
**Support for Lesbian Victims of Domestic Violence.** YWCA. For confidential times and locations, contact Kristy 8 am-4 pm Monday-Friday. Emergency call 24 hours/day. 615-297-8833

# the doctor is out

by JAMES G. CRUSE, M.D.

# Disorders of desire

## Decreased libido is a common female sexual dysfunction, but treatments are available



**Alcohol is a common cause of female sexual dysfunction, reducing both interest and orgasm.**

While impotence and male sexual dysfunction receive a lot of attention in society, female sexual dysfunction does not. Even in medicine, it is rarely discussed, and there has not been much research on it.

This is unfortunate, because sexual dysfunction in women is at least as common as it is in men, probably even more common. Depending on the definition and study methods, studies estimate that 19-50 percent of women have some type of sexual dysfunction, including problems with desire, arousal, orgasm or pain. One the most common sexual problems that women have is decreased libido or desire.

Decreased desire or libido is difficult to define because there is no certain amount of desire that is normal. Levels of desire normally change during a person's life, and during the lifetime of a couple's relationship. The most common definition of decreased desire is a level of desire that is lower than the person would like and causes distress.

Probably the most common causes of decreased desire are related to stress. This type of sexual dysfunction tends to be situational, getting better and worse as the level of stress changes. Setting up dates, weekend getaways, or romantic evenings alone with your partner can help with this.

Depression is another common cause for decreased libido. This differs from common stress in that it is a prolonged period of symptoms such as feeling down or anxious, fatigue, insomnia, changes in appetite, and loss of interest in activities (including sex). Depression can be treated with medications, although these can also cause sexual problems.

Relationship problems can certainly cause decreased desire for that partner. This can be because of short-term conflict or general long-term dissatisfaction with the relationship. If these problems cannot be easily resolved within the relationship, counseling can help.

Many medications and drugs cause sexual problems by affecting desire, arousal, lubrication or the ability to achieve orgasm. The most common of these is alcohol. It reduces both interest and orgasm.

Many antidepressants and anti-anxiety medications also have sexual side effects. This makes treating sexual problems caused by depression particularly difficult. But there are some that do not do this. If you are concerned about this, talk to your doctor.

Other medications that commonly decrease libido are high blood pressure, cholesterol and heart medications. Hormones and birth control pills can either increase or decrease libido, depending on the medication and the person. If you have a problem from a medication, don't just stop it. Talk to your doctor about the problem. Often there is an alternative.

Hormone problems can be another cause of libido problems. Clues that a woman may be having hormonal problems before menopause include changes in her periods, irregular periods, unusual weight changes, changes in face or body hair, acne or mood swings.

Hormone problems are more common in women who are near menopause or after menopause. Decreased levels of hormones affect both the brain (interest) and sex organs (enjoyment). There is usually some thinning of the vaginal lining, weakening of the muscles, and decreased lubrication. This can make sex uncomfortable.

Sometimes the male hormone testosterone is also needed in women after menopause. It has a strong affect on desire, but is controversial for women before menopause.

Problems such as discomfort or pain during intercourse can certainly decrease a woman's interest in sex. Such discomfort is often caused by a treatable problem. Sometimes it is a sign of a serious illness. If intercourse is uncomfortable or painful, you should see your doctor for a thorough evaluation.

*The Georgia Association of Physicians for Human Rights is an organization of physicians and medical students dedicated to promoting the delivery of supportive, unprejudiced and well informed medical care to bisexual, lesbian and gay patients. GAPHR, P.O. Box 13132, Atlanta, GA 30324 or 404-231-2251.*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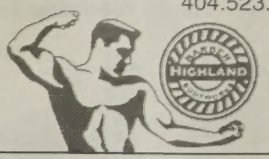

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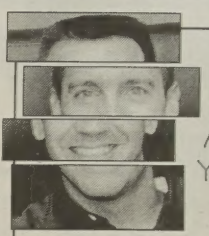

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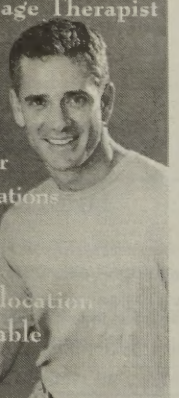

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# past out

by RAWLEY GRAU

## Greeks' gay tyrant-slayers

### When the love shared by Harmodios and Aristogeiton was threatened, they made their mark on Greek culture

For the ancient Greeks, democracy was symbolized in the image of two male lovers. Their names were **HARMODIOS** and **ARISTOGEITON**, and for centuries they were honored as the founders of equality under the law.

But their actions seem to have been intended primarily to protect their relationship, not to create a new form of government.

In 546 B.C., a tyrant usurped power of the city-state of Athens from its ruling coalition of prominent families and established a dictatorship. He was succeeded in 528 by his eldest son, Hippias.

His second son, Hipparchos, apparently shared power as well—serving as a kind of minister of culture. At some point, Hipparchos became enamored of a young man named Harmodios.

The historian Thucydides, writing a century later, describes the situation as follows: "Harmodios was then a most beautiful young man in the flower of his youth, and was loved and possessed by Aristogeiton, a citizen who belonged to the middle class. Harmodios was approached, though without success, by Hipparchos."

Although Harmodios rejected Hipparchos' advances, Aristogeiton was greatly upset. The tyrant's brother continued to pursue Harmodios, who continued to rebuff him.

When Hipparchos realized he didn't stand a chance with Harmodios, he took out his disappointment on the young man's family. He invited Harmodios' younger sister to take part in a ceremonial procession, then, at the last minute, sent her home, saying she was unworthy.

The implication was that she was not a virgin. This insult only compounded Harmodios and Aristogeiton's grievances against Hipparchos.

The two lovers conspired with others to kill both Hippias and Hipparchos in 514. But on the scheduled day, their plans went awry when they saw one of their fellow conspirators talking with Hippias. Alarmed that their plot was about to be exposed, the lovers rushed over to Hipparchos and slew him with daggers.

**Bronze statues of Aristogeiton (left) and Harmodios pay tribute to their unique place in Greek History.**

Harmodios was killed instantly by Hipparchos' bodyguard, but Aristogeiton managed to escape. Soon, however, he was found and tortured to death.

The tyrant Hippias remained in power another four years. During this time his rule became extremely oppressive.

In 510, he was overthrown, and two years later, an innovative system of representational government was established that today we recognize as an early form of democracy.

Aristogeiton and Harmodios did not, in fact, slay the tyrant; they killed his brother. And they did so not from political motives—at least not primarily—but "under the impulse of rage caused, in the one case, by love and in the other by wounded pride," as Thucydides points out.

Nevertheless, a cult grew around Harmodios and Aristogeiton, honoring them as heroes and tyrant-slayers—and the founders of democracy.

Less than 10 years after their deaths, bronze statues of the lovers were erected in the city's main square. No other mortals had received such a tribute, and these statues were likely among the first individualized portraits created in Greece.

Their poses, replicated on vases and coins and imitated in countless other sculptures, quickly became emblematic of heroism.

Despite Thucydides' attempt to establish the facts, the Athenians persisted in their devotion to the ill-fated lovers. One drinking song, which dates from the fifth century B.C. expresses this civic feeling especially well:

*Fame shall be yours forever throughout the earth/Dearest Harmodios and Aristogeiton/Because you slew the tyrant/And made Athens a place of equality under the law.*

**INFO**

**'Greek Homosexuality'**
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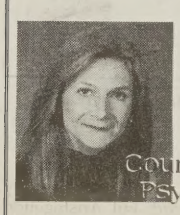

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# The actor behind Anna Madrigal

## Veteran screen star Olympia Dukakis talks about her experiences with the latest installation of 'Tales'

by LAWRENCE FERBER

Olympia Dukakis is perhaps best known amongst gay men and film buffs for her role alongside Cher in "Moonstruck." As the maternal transsexual Anna Madrigal in this latest installment of "Tales," Dukakis not only enjoys a visit from the whorehouse madam Mother Mucca (Jackie Burroughs), but a little romance with an older man known as Royal Reichenbach (John McMartin) and a catfight with Laura Linney's obnoxious TV anchor co-worker.

Based in Manhattan with a husband of 38 years, the good-humored stage and screen vet talked baout Madrigal, the city and hopes for the future.

*Southern Voice:* So how did you enjoy inhabiting the role of Anna Madrigal for the third time, Olympia?

**Olympia Dukakis:** Oh, I love it. It's my favorite thing to do ever. She's so interesting and complicated and carries so many contradictions. I really like her. And she has such great clothes to wear.

*SoVo:* What kinds of changes did you want to for your character this time?

**Dukakis:** I always offer my two cents. Most times people don't want it but I offer it at any rate. Well, I asked Armistead to give her a romance! I thought she should have a romance. He did, he gave me a romance, but he gave me the usual kind of thing with Armistead—a romance with a twist!

*SoVo:* What is Armistead, who is always present during filming, like?

**Dukakis:** He's very involved and very helpful. If you don't understand or feel troubled about something, you can go to him—it's great. He's an incredibly decent human being.

*SoVo:* How did you study for the role of Madrigal?

**Dukakis:** I was fortunate enough to have a meeting with a woman who was a transsexual, but who was a therapist who worked with people with gender-related issues. She was very informative and very helpful. I asked her what was so important to her to go through this incredible change, because you know the operation is very painful and the recovery is difficult. The process they go through is really not easy.

She said because all her life she had wanted the friendship of women and I found that really wonderful. And she said what she learned as a man was to act and as a woman to let herself have feelings. Imagine that in one person! So there you have Anna Madrigal, she can go either way as the saying goes.

*SoVo:* Have there been any moments you wished you were a man?

**Dukakis:** Yes, I think when I was really young and I saw boys able to do things and go places and girls couldn't—I wanted to be a boy. I think then—when I was younger—but not since I got older.

*SoVo:* When you got into the first "Tales" series, did you think you would be here today doing a third?

**Dukakis:** Oh, no! But isn't it great? I love it—it's wonderful.

*SoVo:* You had a nice catfight scene this time around with the nasty reporter woman in your basement.

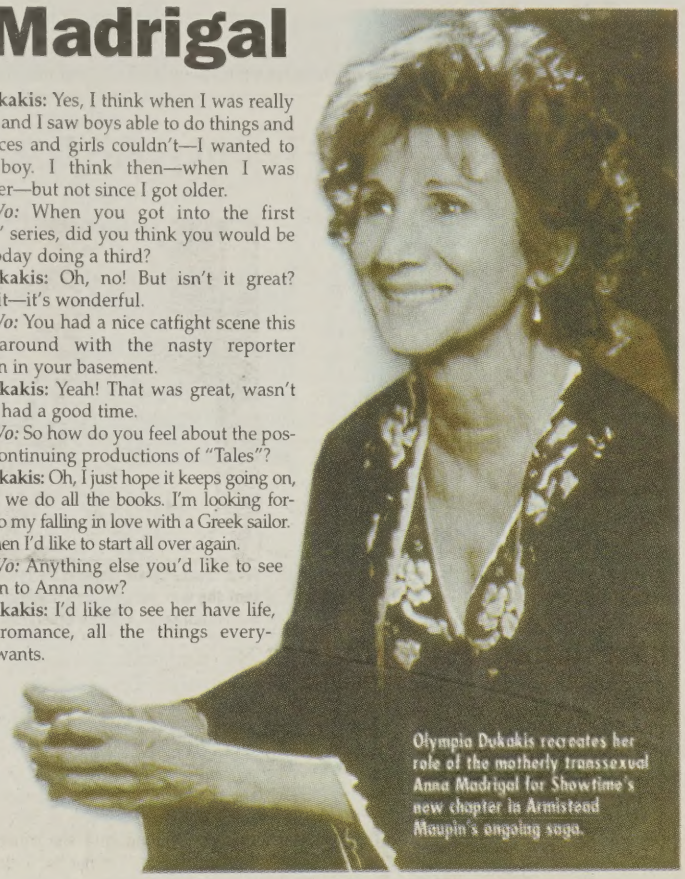
**Dukakis:** Yeah! That was great, wasn't it? We had a good time.

*SoVo:* So how do you feel about the possible continuing productions of "Tales"?

**Dukakis:** Oh, I just hope it keeps going on, I hope we do all the books. I'm looking forward to my falling in love with a Greek sailor. And then I'd like to start all over again.

*SoVo:* Anything else you'd like to see happen to Anna now?

**Dukakis:** I'd like to see her have life, love, romance, all the things everybody wants.



Olympia Dukakis recreates her role of the motherly transsexual Anna Madrigal for Showtime's new chapter in Armistead Maupin's ongoing saga.

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# Maupin keeps hand in TV 'Tales'

➢ Continued from Page 25

He says he's been on the set "every moment" of the filming of "Further Tales of the City."

"I'm present for every single scene and the actors and crew have become my extended family," he says. "It's completely thrilling to see this team of gifted artists creating a three-dimensional version" of his story, he notes.

The long-time writer takes a balanced view of the recent explosion of gay-themed programming that his movies are a part of.

"I have a real fear that gay programming will end up in a sort of televisual ghetto in the same way that black life seems to have been consigned to the WB.

"I'm thrilled that our stories are being told finally, but I think it's extremely important that we insist that our lives be part of mainstream culture," Maupin adds.

From Maupin's perspective, it seems everything and nothing has changed since he was a young, gay man learning the queer ropes in San Francisco. "I do truly believe that the central issues remain the same," he says.

"Most young gay men that I know now are very much the way I was 25 years ago, in that they are searching for family and permanency and love at the same time that they're dealing with their need to experience sexual adventures. To this day I can waver between those two instincts in a single 24-hour period."

Fifteen years ago Maupin found both love and adventure in Atlanta when he met Terry Anderson, the man who would become his romantic partner for 10 years and, now, his business partner. "I actually met him when he invited me to come speak in Atlanta," notes Maupin.

"He was part of the gay student alliance at Georgia State University, and we started talking the minute I got off the plane."

Asked what he hoped for when the first chapter of "Tales" was published all those years ago, Maupin is quick with his response. "A popular newspaper column," he says.

"I really didn't imagine that it would become a series of best-selling books and that the books would survive as long as they have," Maupin adds.

It is almost literally a dream come true. "I remember when I was a kid the first time my parents drove me to Atlanta, I kept trying to imagine exactly where Tara would be," Maupin reflects. "It was my dream that I could create an address that people would actually try to find."

Judging from the number of tourists traipsing San Francisco's Russian Hill searching for 28 Barbary Lane, it looks like Maupin has done just that.

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There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

## Big hand for the little *lady*?

Man, oh man! You would assume a gal needs a certain cockiness about herself to want to be called "Miss Universe," but this year's pageant takes cockiness to a whole new level! Officials of the Miss Universe pageant are nervously denying rumors that Miss France was born a man, according to AP news reports. Rumors began rocketing that 20-year-old **Elodie Gossuin** had more than a desire to win tucked away when a French Internet site set the balls rolling. A Puerto Rican tabloid described Gossuin as having "large hands and a scar on her forehead"—implying she'd had plastic surgery. Gossuin flatly denies that there's any secret that might turgidly rise from her past. Pageant spokeswoman Mary Hillard McMillan dismissed the allegations as rumor and stated that were there a "problem," it would have been detected in the swimsuit fitting. Um, well not necessarily, Mary. But our lips are sealed—with duct tape!

**Miss France Elodie Gossuin flatly denies that she was ever a man—but stories in the French press indicate otherwise.**

### Hart to hart and man to man

Tongues are wagging about actor **Robert "RJ" Wagner**'s alleged secret gay life! According to the tabloid weekly *Globe*—a new biography on Wagner's late wife, film star **Natalie Wood**, will soon blow the covers off just what Wagner was gettin' up to 'neath the covers! Suzanne Finstad's book, "Natasha: The Biography of Natalie Wood," claims that Wood's first marriage to the former "Hart to Hart" star was shattered when she caught him in bed with another man! According to the story, an insider reveals that Natalie "was screaming and yelling, and she squeezed a glass so hard that it shattered in her hand. She fled from the house in only her nightgown and eventually wound up at her parent's house." (Aaron Spelling would be proud!) The book is said to further state that Wagner and Wood worked hard to keep the incident under wraps. A decade later, Wood agreed to marry Wagner for the second time only after the actor vowed that his experimentation with the gay "lifestyle" was over. The sexy, rich couple then bought a huge mansion and solved silly little mysteries alongside their feisty little dog Freeway and a crusty old butler. Oops sorry—that's not right at all—that was another couple! Cast our vote for a movie version of the TV mystery couple that never was: 'MacMillan & Hart'!

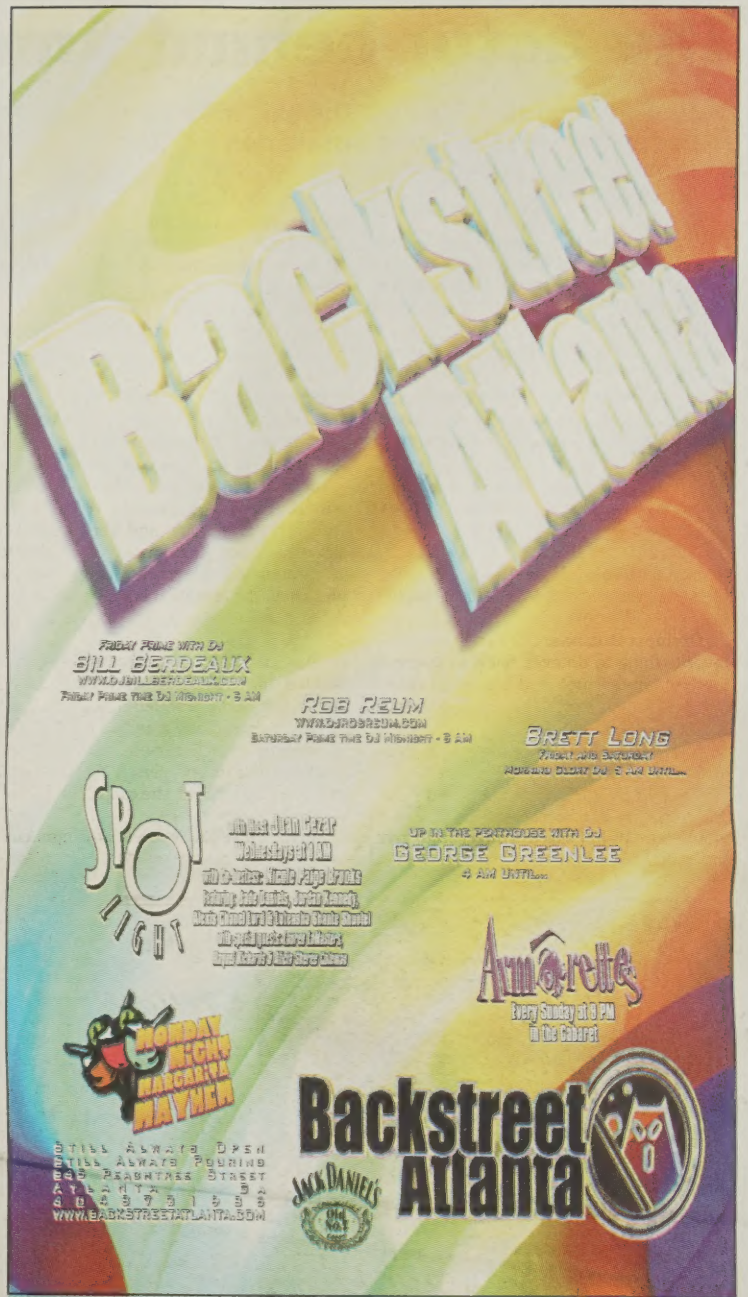
**A young Robert Wagner and Natalie Wood before their divorce after Wood allegedly discovered Wagner's 'tendencies.'**

### Ivana towel!

Isn't it just our luck—while we're sitting here in the States, snoring through the molasses-like monotony of "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" the Italians are having all the fun! Who else could get away with dumping a bucket of cold water on the handsomely hair-do'd head of **Ivana Trump**?! It happened in Italy, folks, on the "Candid Camera-esque" television show "Scherzi A Parte"—and Ivana was not amused! She sued the show for $6 million according to the *New York Post*, but U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff recently dismissed the case saying that his court has no jurisdiction, even though the show has offices in New York. Apparently, the show paid Ivana $18,000, telling her that she would be on a talk show panel, but when she arrived, they instead dumped a cold bucket of water over her head! Ivana claims that she lost a $25,000 earring and had her $3,000 suit ruined from the prank. She is pursuing the case in Italy, but a lawyer for the show told the *Post*, "She signed a contract to go on a TV show, the nature of which was for a surprise to happen to a celebrity. That's the whole nature of the show. It would be like going on 'Survivor' and saying you didn't know you'd be with a group of people, and they'd be voting off one person at a time."

*—Write to Dish@sovo.com*

**Ivana Trump is sopping mad at the Italian TV show 'Scherzi A Parte'—they dumped a bucket of water on her head as a joke.**



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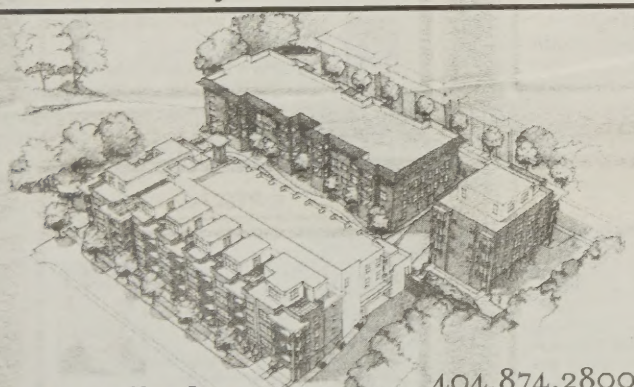

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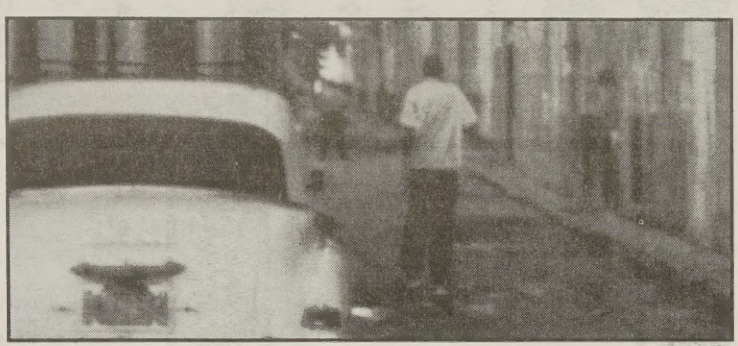
by JONATHAN LERNER



**Time stands still since the revolution of 1959 in Cuba. It's not uncommon to see vintage autos like this 1948 Plymouth in everyday use.**

## Now is the time to see Havana

### The once beautiful capital of Spanish America is a city crumbling after years of economic blockade

Founded in the 16th century, Havana was the richest capital of Spanish America. Centuries of wealth left an intoxicating melange: flower-draped colonial mansions, lavish Belle Epoque town houses, chiseled art-deco blocks, swooping modernist villas—all jostling together, right beside the ocean, under the tropical sun.

But since the 1959 revolution that directed resources toward the poor countryside, there has been no maintenance. The condition of these buildings is shocking. Some preservation is underway, as Cuba turns to tourism for income. But the needs are overwhelming.

Miraculously, communist austerity and a punishing economic blockade by the United States haven't dampened the Cuban people's warmth. With resources scarce, they make their own entertainment—idling, chatting, playing dominoes, volleyball or that infectious music, and dancing—in streets that are like extensions of their houses.

You could spend a week in Havana doing nothing but taking photos of people leaning over balcony railings, watching this vibrant street life unfold. If, that is, you could bear to turn your lens away from the enchanting buildings themselves.

For Americans, pent-up interest is exploding. It's not illegal for us to go; our government just says we may not spend money there. But the U.S. does not prosecute its citizens who visit Cuba.

And the Cubans welcome us with enthusiasm. They have no trouble distinguishing between American individuals and an American government they see keeps them impoverished.

Cuba is a place of exquisite contradictions—beleaguered Communism dancing to a salsa beat. The revolution established universal health care, but people can't always find aspirin, tampons or condoms.

There is universal literacy, but nothing to read that hasn't been approved by censors. (Don't bother looking for a copy of Reinaldo Arenas' autobiography "Before Night Falls" in the government shops—just read it before you go.)

Nobody starves, but food is rationed. The average salary is equivalent to $10 a month. So the streets are filled all day with people "improvising," as everyone calls it, to make ends meet.

People will approach you offering to be your guide, to sell you "premium" cigars (usually fakes), to rent you a room or lead you to a "paladar" (a family-run, in-home restaurant—one of the few private businesses permitted), or to offer you sex, for money. They're not aggressive. It's more sad than irritating.

As to the sex, there are women hustlers, called "jineteras," or jockeys, and male hustlers, called "pingueros," which means something like "penis professionals." Disabuse yourself of your old ideas about whores; these are as likely as not to have advanced degrees and speak several languages.

Bear in mind that Cubans aren't permitted upstairs in tourist hotels, and few of them have private spaces of their own. If you want a gay sex holiday, you'll have an easier time in Amsterdam.

Gay life here was once officially repressed, but the scene for men is quite visible now in Havana. Lesbians evidently have a more secluded culture that takes place in private rather than on the street.

Just hang out in front of the Yarra Cinema in the evening, to meet gay men and hear about the latest floating party, or which bars are having gay nights and drag shows.

**INFO** **Cuban tourism**
www.cuba.com

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## FINANCIAL ADVISOR

**Q:** Today, there is so much information out there about where to invest my money—how do I know what's best for me?

**A:** A financial consultant can help you decide when and where to start investing—choose a reliable firm with a strong history and never be afraid to ask questions in order to find out what's best for your future.

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## CHIROPRACTOR

**Q:** Does spinal adjustment hurt?

**A:** Most chiropractic adjustments are painless; in fact, the adjustment may feel good and can be relieving. If you've had a recent injury, however, adjustments can irritate inflamed tissue and cause some discomfort. Some people also experience odd sensations in their extremities after adjustments. This is a normal reaction to the relieving of pressure on nerves and is usually no cause for concern.

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## REALTOR

**Q:** What is a condominium association fee?

**A:** Condominium association fees represent the community's shared operating expenses and vary by community. By sharing expenses, condo owners save in overall maintenance expenses and enjoy community benefits like pool, fitness, tennis, security, etc ... Understanding how the whole process of condo ownership works (association fees, initiation fees, bylaws, etc...) is why it is so important to use a condominium expert in purchasing a condominium.

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## HOW TO LOOK YOUNGER

**Q:** What can cosmetic botox treatments help?

Before

After

**A:** Botox, which has been used since the '60s, is an effective and safe treatment to reduce wrinkles and furrows around the eyes, forehead, and between the eyebrows. It usually lasts 3-6 months.

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## HAIR STYLIST

**Q:** What are the new trends for men and women's hair this spring?

**A:** For men, you will see a lot more length with wavy curls to it! Women will be abundant with curls. Curls are coming back faster than ever! Hair that moves and is wavy will certainly be a hit - however, not the scrunch perm. Pull out your diffuser and go at it!

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## COMPUTER TECH SUPPORT

**Q:** A co-worker told me I could reconfigure my computer using something called the registry. How?

**A:** Although the Registry can be used for system configuration, this should be done as a last resort and only by an expert. Much of the information that is contained in the Registry can be set safely through the applets found in the control panel.

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## AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

**Q:** My brakes squeak occasionally. Is this normal?

**A:** In most cases, this is a normal condition with a disc brake system. However, if the noise is constant, excessive, or grinding, have the brake system checked by a professional to avoid any safety problems.

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## TRAVEL AGENT

**Q:** I need a BEACH fix. What do you suggest?

**A:** Best bang for the buck—Cancun, Cozumel and Mayan Sun Coast, Mexico. The beaches are some of the most beautiful in the world—lots to do and great prices. If you prefer something gayer, there's Condado Beach in San Juan, the Cormorant Resort in St. Croix, Southern Florida (Key West, South Beach, Fort Lauderdale) and Provincetown. Beyond that, the sky's the limit—Hawaii, Mediterranean and the South Pacific.

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## OPTICAL

**Q:** Will I need glasses after laser surgery?

**A:** This certainly depends on many variables—it's always a possibility, especially if you need vision at distance and also to help with your close-up vision. The surgeons' hope is that you won't, but he or she can't guarantee that, so make your decision based on fact and not desire.

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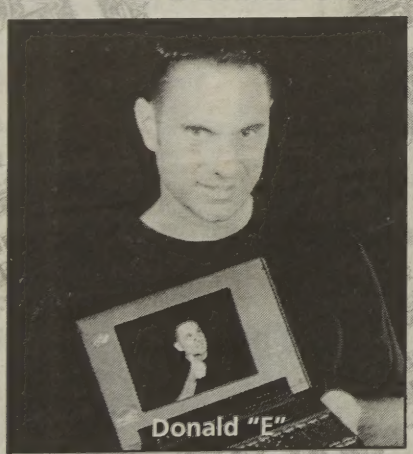

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GARDENER'S GUIDE

by LEE REICH

# Manure brings 'handiwork' benefits to garden

There are benefits to hauling manure.

Although 500 pounds of horse manure give plants about the same amount of food as 50 pounds of synthetic 10-10-10 fertilizer, the 10-10-10 supplies only food—and only three of the 16 needed nutrients. Manure aerates the soil and helps it absorb and cling to water.

Nutrients from synthetic fertilizers are used up or washed out of the soil by the end of a season, but benefits from each application of manure continue for years.

When we talk about manure, we mean animal excrement plus bedding. The bedding—often hay or sawdust—is responsible for some of the benefits of manure. The amount of nourishment manure supplies to a plant the first season depends on the ratio of bedding to excrement. More bedding means less nourishment to plants the first season, but a greater residual effect for subsequent seasons.

"Hot manures" are so-called because they readily heat up when stacked in a pile. The heat comes from the burst of microbial activity stimulated by these manures' relatively high concentrations of nitrogen and low concentrations of water. Horse and poultry manures are "hot;" cow and pig manures are "cold." Never use dog or cat manure in the garden because they can transmit diseases to humans.

Once you have manure in hand—er, in pitchfork—what next? Most gardeners dig it into the soil immediately. If the manure is well-rotted, with the bedding material no longer recognizable, planting can begin when the soil is smoothed. If the manure is relatively raw, wait at least two weeks before planting.

You could also just lay manure on top of the ground as mulch. This is fine if the manure is rotted, but nitrogen escapes as gas from fresh manure exposed to sun and wind. The nitrogen loss is wasteful, but it may be worth the sacrifice considering the benefits of the mulch.

Another alternative is to compost any manure before putting it on or in the soil. Mixing manure with garden residues, vegetable scraps and other ingredients in a compost pile results in a better-balanced fertilizer. Also, the heat of composting kills most weed seeds.

The word "manure" is derived from the Latin words for "hand" and "work." Yes, manure handling is a lot of physical work, but exercise is yet another benefit of gardening.

**Manure aerates soil and helps it absorb water, besides delivering long-lasting nutrients to plants.**

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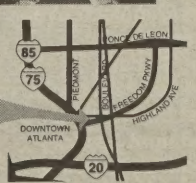


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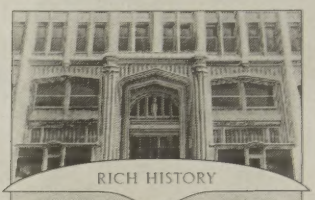


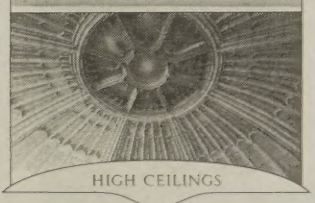


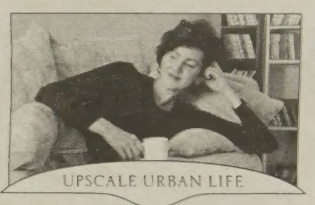


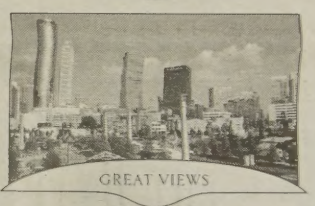


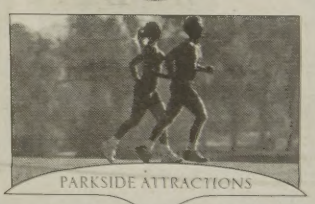


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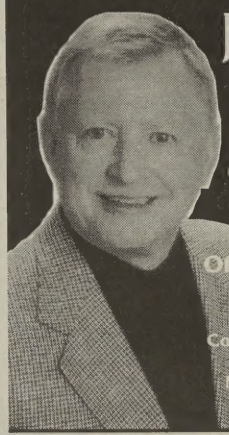

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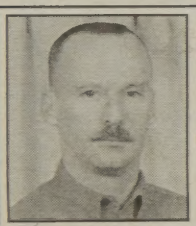

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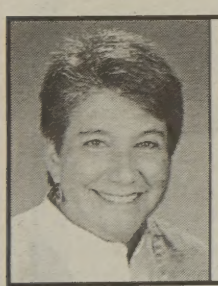

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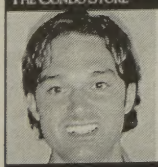

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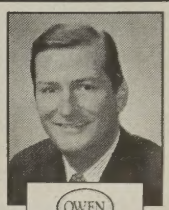

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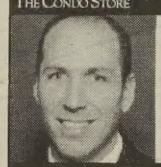

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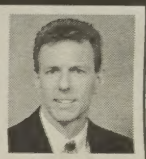

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# my stars

by CHARLENE LICHTENSTEIN

## May 3 – May 9

Grab the maypole and welcome May this week; the sultry summer is not far off. This May delivers unusual surprises thanks to renegade Mars, Pluto, Neptune and Uranus. Chickens come home to roost; How do you like your eggs - scrambled or just hatched?

**ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)**
Plans have a way of getting sidetracked and what you thought you'd get at the end of the rainbow is not what the travel agent promised. Pack your optimism and expect grand and surprising elements that will make your life more interesting.

**TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)**
Be careful of what you wish in a lover, gay Bull. Sex can get out of hand this May. Be a bit discerning. How would you like that wet dream to show up at your office the next day dressed only in a G-string and a prayer.

**GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)**
If your witty repartee with partners is a little strained, chalk it up to the retrograde gang. If you're searching for a special someone, check out the merchandise carefully before you buy. How tight and garish do you want it, hot pink Twin??

**CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)**
Proud Crabs feel like rats on a treadmill this month as work responsibilities become almost overwhelming. Maybe it's time to break out and take a well deserved vacation. Enjoy the vistas and don't leave a forwarding phone number.

**LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)**
Fun was never so much trouble. Queer Lions can better enjoy a day at work or a stint at the gym where at least you feel appreciated. It's better than spending too much money and effort on questionable pastimes that, for now, tip you into the abyss.

**VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)**
If you thought about escaping in your safe cocoon, think again gay Virgin. Retro Mars stirs up a hornets nest in any home-related issues. If you are angling for discussions with family, prepare for World War III. Well, you have to detonate a few bombs to get noticed.

**LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)**
Pink Libras let the cat out of the bag when Mars broadcasts your darkest secrets. You'll be doing double duty to fix what these marauding orbs have scratched. But cats and people are often happiest out of the bag.

**SCORPIO (OCT. 24 – NOV. 22)**
Queer Scorps are shook, rattled and rolled financially when a gang of retrograde planets pick your pockets. It would be a shame to blow your wad on a fog, a dream and a prayer. Save your pennies and spend to the hilt in Pride Month.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)**
Don't be surprised if the planets serve you a hot steaming portion of gay Archer au jus. Mars is stirring up your public persona and the folks that you meet and greet could be very good (or very bad) for you. Choose your mentors wisely, my friend. Think before you act and communicate very carefully and diplomatically this May. Oy! Look who I'm talking to!

**CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)**
There is a powerful force working behind the scenes which transforms and overturns all that you hide in life. I recommend a good cleaning of the pipes where secrets and closets are concerned. Don't let it shake your self confidence, gay Cap.

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)**
Aqueerians are out and about in far reaching, global ways. These are opportunities, pal. The main thing is not to listen to the advice of friends. What is right for others may not be right for you. Go with your inner voice and grab the gold.

**PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)**
If Guppies are keen to climb that corporate ladder, don't take drastic risks this month. Planets have a way of screwing up best laid professional plans. Whine to yourself in the quiet of your room if you must, but don't let the sharks smell your panic.

*For entertainment purposes only. For more information on Charlene Lichtenstein, including her new book, "HerScopes: A Guide to Astrology for Lesbians," visit www.AccessNewAge.com/Stargayzer.*

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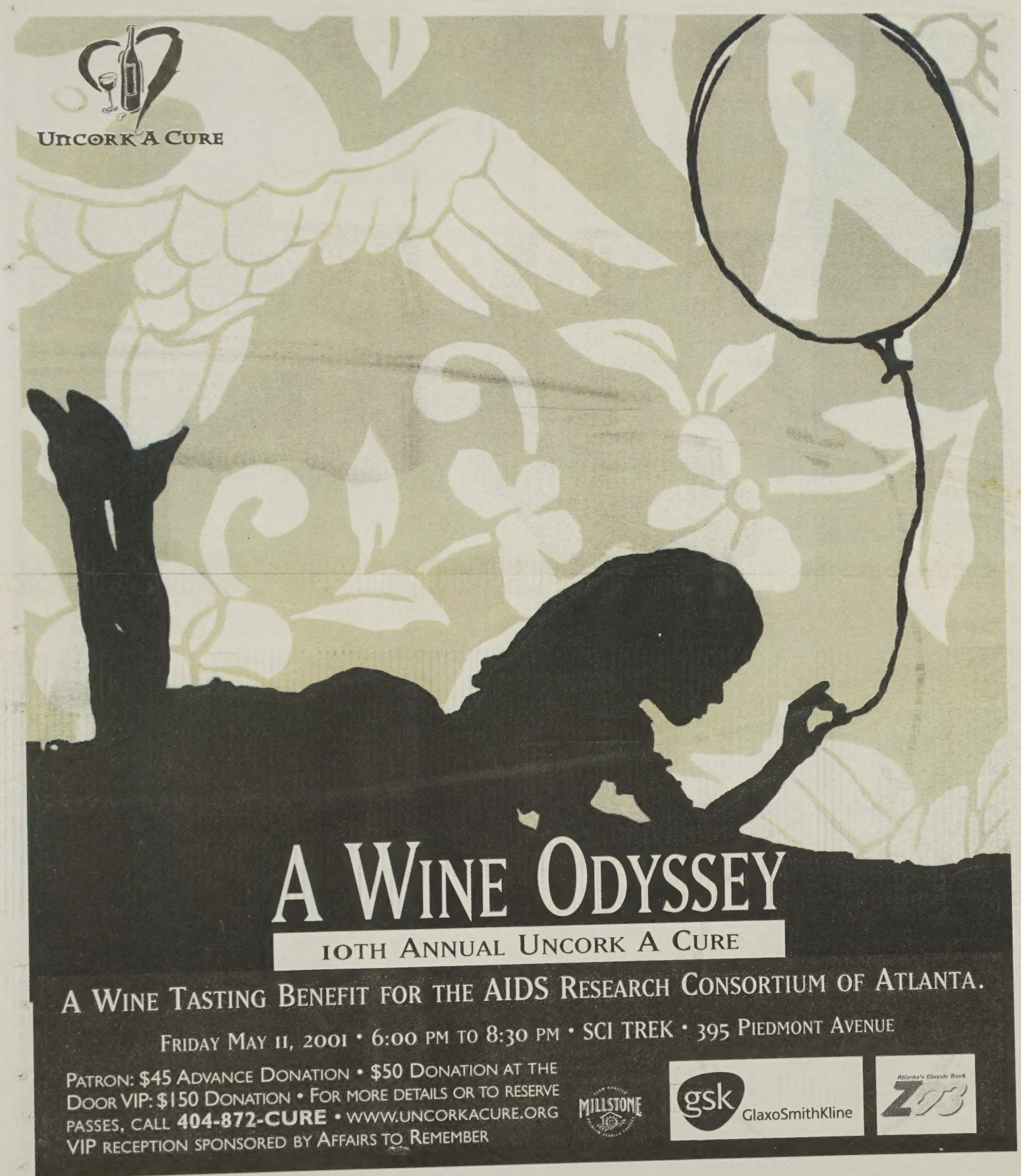
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